



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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**CIS LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY
DOCUMENTS, MAR 1995**

95P50092

[FBIS Media Note] The following is a listing of economic legislation recently published in the press of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Citations followed by the notation "Translated" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications. (Numbers following the notation indicate FBIS serial numbers identifying the translations in electronic format.)

RUSSIA

Federal law No. 27 amending earlier law "On Mineral Resources." (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Mar 95 pp 13-15) Translation in progress.

Draft decree on economic reform and development. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 1) Translated as MM2803083595.

Government decree No. 206 "On Approval of the Statute on the Procedure for Declaring the Sources of Monetary Assets Used by Legal and Physical Persons in Making Payments for Transactions Privatizing State and Municipal Property." (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 5) Translated as 954Q0158A.

Government decree No. 228 setting up interdepartmental commission for the protection of intellectual property. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Mar 95 p 16) Translation in progress.

Government decree No. 239 "On Measures To Put Order Into State Regulation of Prices (Rates)." (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 4) Translated as 954Q0157A.

Government decree No. 240 "On Economic Conditions for the Functioning of the Russian Federation Agro-Industrial Complex in 1995." (Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Mar 95 pp 1-2) Translated as MM2103120095.

Central Bank letter No. 26 "On Commercial Banking Operations With Commercial Bills and Changes in Accounting Procedures of Banking Operations With Commercial Bills." (Moscow DELOVOY MIR in Russian 21 Mar 95 p 6)

KAZAKHSTAN

Presidential edict "On Formation of a Committee on the Utilization of Foreign Capital Under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan." (Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 1) Translated as 954F1802A.

Presidential edict "On Reorganization of the Kazakhstan Republic State Committee for State Property." (Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 95 p 2) Translated as 954F1865A.

KYRGYZSTAN

Presidential edict "On Measures to Regulate the Work of Investment Funds in the Kyrgyz Republic." (Osh OSH JANGYRYGY in Kyrgyz 16 Mar 95 p 2) Translated as LD2203120795.

UKRAINE

Law "On Taxing Enterprise Profits." (Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Feb 95 pp 5-10) Translated as 954K0491A.

Cabinet of Ministers decree No. 109 "On Specifying the Authority of Central Organs of State Executive Power, the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and the Executive Committees of Local Councils in the Area of Price Setting." (Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 16 Feb 95 p 11) Translated as 954K0510A.

Cabinet of Ministers decree No. 144 "On Approving the Regulations on Certificate Auction Centers." (Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 4 Mar 95 p 8) Translated as 954K0518A.

Russia, Estonia, Finland Form Sea Border Control Group

LD0104162195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1241 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST.PETERSBURG, April 1 (Interfax)—Russia, Finland and Estonia have reached an agreement on the establishment of a tripartite sea border control group.

The North-Western Border District told Interfax that this question was discussed during a session of the Russian-Finnish-Estonian border group for cooperation in the Gulf of Finland, which ended on March 31.

The session involved commander of the North-Western Border District Colonel-General Vladimir Vyunov, aide of the head of the Finnish Border Troops Major-General Hanno Achonen, and chief of the staff of the Estonian border service Major-General Aare Evisaly.

A spokesman for the North-Western Border District said that the agreement was the first result achieved by the tripartite commission. The newly-established groups will meet in May and June.

Finland also made its proposals on organizing joint rescue exercises in September 1995. Details will be discussed by the three countries' sea specialists.

Leader of the Russian delegation Colonel-General Vladimir Vyunov made proposals on Finland's and Estonia's participation in the Putina-95 operation which the North-Western Border District will begin on May 1, 1995.

Eight States Sign Draft Accord on Border Protection

LD3103211095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 31 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Thursday in Ashgabat, delegations of eight CIS member-states, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, initialled draft concepts concerning protection of their external borders and an agreement on cooperation to guard their external borders at the sitting of the Council of commanders of the Commonwealth's frontier forces.

Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine refused to sign the text of the draft. Moldova's position on this issue is unknown as its delegation has not come to this meeting.

The meeting also considered the Council's participation in preparation of a complex plan to settle the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

At the press conference devoted to results of this meeting Directors of the Federal Frontier Service of the Russian Federation Andrey Nikolayev declared that heads of eight states would likely sign both documents after appropriate amendments are introduced into them.

Almost all participants of the press conference underlined that "saying external borders" they speak not about borders of the CIS but about borders of CIS states with the states which are not members of the Commonwealth and they do not divide their borders into internal and external ones.

In response to Interfax commander of Turkmenistan's frontier forces Akmurad Kabulov declared that the texts of the documents "contradict to Turkmenistan's laws and to its policy of neutrality." However, as he said, the republic does not deny cooperation with other states on a bilateral basis.

In an interview with Interfax commander of Georgia's frontier forces Valeriy Chkheidze declared about his special position. In his words, Georgia will sign the documents if they stipulate that the state "will join the agreement after sovereignty along the whole length of its borders is restored."

Shakhrai Elected Chairman of Broadcasting Council

LD3103141295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1304 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk March 31 TASS—A session of the Interstate Coordinating Council of the Mir TV and Radio Broadcasting Company was held here today at the CIS headquarters. It was created in 1992 on

the initiative of the CIS heads of state. The session discussed the conceptual framework of the Mir station and changes in its charter, and elected a new chairman of the Interstate Coordinating Council—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhrai. For the coming three years he will be the head of the council, made up of deputy prime ministers of the ten CIS member states.

During his stay in Minsk Shakhrai had a meeting with Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhyr. They discussed prospects of the development of Russian-Belarusian relations.

Shakhrai met as well Ivan Korotchenya, head of the CIS Executive Secretariat, and discussed with him further deepening of integration of the CIS member states.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Apr

LD0104075795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0521 GMT 1 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Each of today's leading newspapers suggests its own way of marking April 1. The PRAVDA newspaper suggests "let us laugh in order not to weep", while the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper seemingly cracks jokes from the front to the back pages.

However, there is a danger that a joke named "Let Us Return Weight and Dignity to the Kopeck" with regard to the golden chervonets (eds: chervonets with a denomination of ten golden roubles was minted in tsarist times and in the first days of Soviet power) may be understood not by everybody and may raise a pandemonium, as it was often in the past.

Nevertheless, customary topics remain, and newspapers deal with some of them. The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA daily carries an article by Colonel-General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of federal troops in Chechnya, that "the so-called Dudayev's army" has been routed.

Dudayev's supporters do not have now sufficient quantities of weapons, combat materiel and trained reinforcements to continue military operations. Federal troops now control over 80 per cent of the republic's territory.

In Kulikov's opinion, "the Chechen events will develop into a slow-going conflict by this summer. Therefore, only permanent garrisons and temporary units will remain here".

Kulikov complained that "there will be problems with deployment, since the country has no funds for troops and their billeting".

The closer the presidential and parliamentary election campaigns, the more insistent those who want to join these campaigns.

Readers of the RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper learnt with joy that people appeared, at long last, who

know "how to pull the country out of the dead-end". These are "realists" from the new political movement alliance of realists.

The newspaper carries an interview with its chairman Yuriy Petrov. He was the head of the present president's office in the recent past. Consequently, he should be given the helm of the state.

Here are a pair of paragraphs from that spacious interview occupying almost a page in the daily. "We must build a NEW Russia (mind it, "NEW" with capital letter) with our own forces, relying on talent, abilities and a desire of people to pull the country out of the dangerous state, to wrest Russia from the crisis."

"We are ardent optimists and shall awake historical optimism among population. Our confidence in success rests not on another myth and a new experiment on society but on a sober account of all economic and political circumstances as well as on national and world experience."

IZVESTIYA comments on an explosion at a munitions depot in the Maritime territory, an event becoming, regrettably, a tradition. In the newspaper's opinion, "spring forest fires are, evidently, not the only reason for fires at Army depots.

"There are ample grounds to believe, although brass hats in Moscow vociferously deny this, that explosions at storage bases take place due to their overpacking with ammunition.

"One and a half million tonnes of shells, mines, grenades and cartridges were transported to Russia from Germany, Mongolia and Poland over the past few years. This is 25,000 pullman wagons.

"However," IZVESTIYA continues, "we have not settled as yet the problem of utilising all these explosives. We have not appropriate laws and advanced technologies."

Under the heading "symbols of times", the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper runs an interesting article about the history of famous five-pointed stars on the Kremlin towers. The Moscow government came out with an initiative 18 months ago to restore the historic skyline of Moscow's Red Square.

The initiative put forth an idea of replacing the five-pointed stars on the Kremlin's towers with traditional symbols of the Russian state. A search for these symbols started at the same time.

However, they have not been found up to this time. Deputy Commandant of the Moscow Kremlin Valeriy Gorelov confirmed in an interview with the newspaper that "a search for the eagles which graced the kremlin towers in the past, is now in progress.

"Alas, it is futile for the time being. In this connection, we receive letters from various Russian cities, in which people suggest various versions for disappearance of the symbols. Some of them even claim that they know where the eagles are.

"For instance, a former builder who worked in the Kremlin in the past, points to an exact location of an eagle. Moreover, he even attached a detailed drawing to the letter. In the pensioner's opinion, the eagle is kept underground, in the area of the armoury."

However, the Kremlin's deputy commandant said that the question of a possible replacement of the Kremlin's stars "is not under consideration now". The eagles are being searched allegedly for the purpose of sending them to a Kremlin museum, "since they have a historical value".

Clinton 9 May Visit, U.S. Ties Assessed

MM3103201095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in
Russian 1 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "Russia-United States: At the Latest Crossroads"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week the subject of Russo-U.S. relations has been at the center of attention of both Moscow and Washington. Statements clearly aimed at the forthcoming 9 May meeting of the two presidents in Moscow have been issued on the subject by both Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton. The same subject has been touched upon by Andrey Kozyrev, and his U.S. colleague Warren Christopher made a conceptual speech at Indiana State University on the same subject. None of them made any secret of the fact that the coming talks will be difficult—just as our relations today are very difficult.

To call a spade a spade, we are facing a definite crisis. Its essence is encapsulated by the entire episode of the U.S. President's visit to Moscow to attend the Victory Day celebrations. I do not recall so much political speculation about any other Clinton visit abroad. There have been calls for the President to cancel the visit and thereby "punish" Russia for the war in Chechnya. Clinton finally decided to go to Moscow—obviously realizing how important this holiday is to us. But, as has been reported, he will not be attending the military parade. That, as the saying goes, is up to him. Ultimately it is not for Clinton's sake that we are celebrating the victory. We celebrate in the way we consider it necessary to celebrate. Yet even such a highly esteemed guest should hardly be highlighting his participation or nonparticipation in certain events.

The essence of what has been happening is that from time to time people want to remake Russia and adapt it to fit in with U.S. foreign and sometimes even domestic policy interests (Clinton did not want to be seen alongside Russian tanks so as not to be criticized by his political opponents). The theoretical basis for this approach was provided by the secretary of state. "We will continue," he stated in Indiana, "to work with Russia in areas where our interests coincide. We will not make our relations hostage to any one problem. But we will be prepared to speak and act openly when Russia acts against our interests."

The first part of this passage inspires hope. Indeed, the two countries do have an interest in resolving many problems. Primarily in the sphere of global security (incidentally, these problems are the subject of the visit to our country by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry that begins today). This also includes ratification of the START II Treaty (which both countries need), possible further cuts in nuclear arsenals, and the urgent necessity of ensuring a tough nonproliferation regime for nuclear and other weapons, as well as the problem of stability in Europe.

Cooperation with Moscow is vitally necessary for the United States on each of these issues—something that U.S. politicians never tire of repeating. But sometimes you have to doubt whether the negative influence currently exerted by "spheres of disagreement" can be successfully dissipated by this sphere of steady cooperation. And I cannot share the secretary of state's confidence that relations will not be hostage to any one conflict situation.

Today, as is clear from Boris Yeltsin's words, the most acute issues are those of Chechnya and Russia's possible cooperation with Iran in nuclear power generation. This is confirmed by Christopher, who called Russia's actions in the Chechnya conflict a "tragic mistake" and stressed that they raise doubts about our country's ability to create a democratic multinational state.

It seems as though U.S. diplomacy still has its old fears. Whatever your attitude to the Chechnya problem, it is now clear that it has not undermined the democratic institutions which have been created in Russia—parliamentarians, political organizations, and the press are able to openly state their views on various issues. It is also clear that the Chechnya tragedy has not led to the strengthening of centripetal forces in the regions. The "domino effect" has not happened. Probably the stronger argument is with those who try to show that it was an exceptional operation undertaken in exceptional circumstances. But Washington, which is showing far greater restraint over Turkish action against the Kurds—action which has already spilled over onto the territory of a foreign state—is not paying very much heed to Russia's arguments.

Christopher also stated that "Russia will rue the day it started cooperating with a terrorist state if Iran develops nuclear weapons with the help of Russian specialists and equipment." Yes, we know that Washington does not like the Tehran authorities. And very possibly with good reason. But where does Russia come into it? I do not recall the United Nations declaring Iran to be a terrorist state or introducing sanctions against it. As a state party to the Nonproliferation Treaty, all of Iran's nuclear activity is monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Tehran carries out its obligations in full, and no complaints have been leveled against it. The question should hardly be phrased in such a way that Russia must unconditionally support U.S. policy.

I think that one other sphere of possible contradictions is currently discernible. The secretary of state very clearly stated that the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the emergence of independent states in its place was in line with U.S. national interests. Just as, he stressed, the preservation of the independence of those countries is in line with those interests. He repeated the word "independence" a good 10 times. At the same time, recognizing the very close links between these states, he was completely silent about Washington's attitude toward

their integration. It cannot be ruled out that if integration processes should get under way, the United States could see this too as a threat to its interests.

What is curious is that all these contradictions are bound up with the negative U.S. attitude to certain Russian actions. But I do not recall Moscow being so acutely disapproving of Washington's actions (with the possible exception of the decision to expand NATO). By no means because these actions are beyond reproach. It is a question of a different concept of our partnership.

People are still looking for descriptions of it—they are calling it constructive and pragmatic. But they have a different word in mind—limited. But such an approach can suit neither Moscow nor Washington. If we really are vitally important to each other, then we should also completely accept each other, without trying to remake the other in our own image or adapt it to fit in with our own interests. Only by so doing can we choose the right road at this latest crossroads.

U.S. Defense Secretary Perry Arrives in Russia

LD0204160295 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has arrived on a four-day visit to Russia. Earlier he was in the Ukraine where he was present at the dismantling of a strategic missile at a former secret testing site. In Kiev he signed an agreement under which the U.S. will assign the Ukraine \$20 million more for dismantling nuclear weapons. This, and also partnership between Russia and NATO are expected to be on the agenda of the talks William Perry will have with Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. The Russian minister said on Saturday that attention will also be given to the situation in Chechnya.

Conversion Aid Not Linked to Bilateral Issues

LD0204164995 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1500 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United States Defense Secretary William Perry, starting his working tour of Russia, said that Washington does not link assistance to Moscow for converting Russia's defense industries to any of the outstanding bilateral issues. He was speaking at a defense plant near Moscow, currently part of a Russian-U.S. joint venture.

When asked whether cooperation could be derailed by Russia's nuclear dealings with Iran, Mr. Perry answered that he was in Moscow for building links rather than imposing unnecessary conditions.

Grachev on Topics for Discussion with Perry

LD0204165495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and Russia will continue to cooperate in the area of conversion, and

Washington does not intend to link aid to Moscow for its conversion program to thorny issues in the relations between the two parties, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said today at the start of his visit to Russia.

[Correspondent Irina Markova] The defense secretary began with a visit to the Moscow region town of Fryazino and the Russo-U.S. Istok enterprise which was set up on the site of one of Russia's leading defense plants. The defense secretary was accompanied by a large group of businessmen who announced their intention to finance four joint projects worth \$28 million. The largest of the projects is the creation of a non-cable TV system. Tomorrow, however, William Perry will meet his Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev and, according to Grachev, conversion will not be the only issue they discuss.

[Begin Grachev recording] The first issue is how our military cooperation plan is being carried out and the prospects for military cooperation in 1995 and '96. The second issue is European security, especially where Yugoslavia is concerned. The third issue is peacemaking operations. The fourth is the sadly still difficult matter of Partnership for Peace within the framework of NATO plus Russia. We have yet to make the expected progress. [end recording]

[Markova] I would add that it is expected that Perry will leave Moscow for Yekaterinburg and will also visit Almaty and Tashkent. Irina Markova, Ekho Moskv.

Grachev, Perry Sign Nuclear Aid Accords

LD0304114895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and his U.S. counterpart William Perry signed two agreements at the end of their talks in Moscow Monday [3 April].

An Interfax correspondent reports, one accord concerns U.S. aid to Russia to ensure safe haulage of strategic nuclear arms from Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan to Russia.

The second document provides for U.S. assistance to Moscow in ensuring the safe storage of nuclear ammunition.

In addition, as Grachev reported to journalists, in the course of the one-on-one talks and during negotiations between full scale delegations, a wide range of issues of mutual interest was discussed. Among these—a new European security system, NATO's expansion and Russia's vision for this process, START-1 implementation and the forthcoming ratification of START-2, ABM Defense problems, compliance with the Conventional Arms Reduction Treaty in Europe, the problems of peace in the Balkans and ways of settling the Yugoslav crisis.

As Perry emphasized, the security of U.S. and Russia largely depends on close cooperation between their Defense chiefs and their ability to work together. In Perry's view, the discussions in Moscow are a vivid example of such cooperation.

Speaking at the press conference after the talks, Grachev admitted that on some points, a new European security system among them, no positive agreement had been reached with Perry.

Russia, as Grachev pointed out, believes that European security should be built through OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and existing institutions, including NATO. However, Grachev argues, OSCE rather than NATO should still be taken as the basis.

The sides were also at odds on chemical and biological disarmament. Russia offered a concrete plan of inspections to check the destruction of chemical and biological weapons on a tripartite basis: Britain, U.S., and Russia. As of now, Grachev declared, this question needs more study.

Asked how the sale of Russian submarines to Iran should be assessed, Grachev replied that Moscow intends to see this contract through since it was concluded when the USSR was in existence and Russia is heir to USSR, Grachev said.

Speaking about Moscow's cooperation with Iran in the field of nuclear power engineering and about Washington's objections to the supply of reactors to Iran for a nuclear power plant in Bushehr, Grachev stressed that the question is outside the Russian Defense Ministry's competence. It is within the competence of the Russian government and of the Atomic Energy Ministry, he added.

Grachev Disagrees With European Security Based on NATO

LD0304102795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0914 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 April—"We do not share the view existing in the West that it is necessary to create a new system of security in Europe which is exclusively based on NATO. In our view, NATO should fit in with a new system of European security and not the other way round, with European security fitting in with NATO's interests." Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said this at a news conference today following talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] should be the coordinating body for security in Europe, the Russian defense minister said.

"Russia's position on this matter is not aimed at undermining existing European and transatlantic institutions," Pavel Grachev said. The head of Russia's

Defense Ministry also noted that we cannot but be concerned about the problem of NATO's expansion to the East and about "the haste now being displayed in the West to resolve this problem." According to Pavel Grachev, an expansion of NATO's zone "will undoubtedly force us to take countermeasures." The minister noted that it is this which is the main reason for the hitch [pauza] in Russia's relations with NATO.

Today's talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry covered questions of fundamental significance for Russia's security: Problems of European security; how the START I and START II treaties on reducing strategic offensive arms are being implemented; the ABM Treaty; the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe; questions concerning missile technology and the export of missile technology; and nuclear problems.

Warns of Possible Countermeasure Over NATO

LD0304112195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1034 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Apr—If NATO presses ahead with expansion to the east, and draws countries of central and eastern Europe into the bloc, Russia may decide, as a countermeasure, to not fulfil the Treaty on Reduction of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, to create corresponding groupings on the "most threatened fronts," and to set up closer cooperation in the military sphere between CIS countries within the framework of a collective security treaty. Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated this today at a news conference following a meeting with William Perry, head of the U.S. military department.

The entry of more new states into NATO, Grachev said, could be seen as "something of an isolation of them from Russia, and an imposition upon those countries of one's own ideas, technology, weaponry, and of a NATO concept for their use and of strategic and operational plans."

FSK Denies Claims of Weapon-Grade Uranium Leaks Abroad

LD0204130295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1223 GMT 2 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The Russian Counterintelligence Service [FSK] denied Western reports about "leaks" of weapon-grade uranium abroad. "Not a single claim has been confirmed", a high-ranking official of the service told TASS Sunday.

However, he admitted that there had been attempts to smuggle out from Russia rare-earth metals and radioactive substances.

A group of people was arrested in the Russian Pskov region on the border with Estonia while they were trying

to sell a container with 57 kilogrammes of uranium-238. An attempt to smuggle out 50 tonnes of a non-ferrous metal worth 60,000 USD was also cut short, the official said.

The Counterintelligence Service was actively fighting illegal arms deliveries in 1994, according to the official. He said three criminal groups engaged in shipping arms to Russia from the Baltics had been arrested. Estonia was most active in the business, the official stressed.

He added that arms dealers shipping weapons from Germany to Russia via Lithuania and Belarus were also seized. A sea channel for arms shipments to Russia from the United States had been closed.

Besides, the Counterintelligence Service also detained eight bandit groups, consisting mostly of foreigners, who were engaged in drug trafficking to Russia. Most of the detained illegally lived in Russia.

30 channels of drug trafficking have been exposed, 158 people arrested, over three tonnes of drugs confiscated and 48 criminal cases initiated, according to the official.

He stressed that cooperation with colleagues from the United States, Kazakhstan and Ukraine was efficient and 13 joint operations were a success. "Thanks to cooperation with the U.S. anti-drug department a top international drug dealer was exposed", the official said.

Swedish Foreign Ministry Protests to Envoy on Suspected Spy

LD3103184995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1814 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Bukolov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Stockholm, 31 Mar—Oleg Grinevskiy, Russian ambassador to Sweden, was summoned to the Swedish Foreign Ministry today where a protest was made to him in connection with the detention of an official from the Russian trade delegation in Sweden. He is accused of espionage. The Swedish news agency reports that the person in question is 37-year-old Mikhail Smirnov.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent in Stockholm contacted Anders Eriksson, the head of the Swedish security police, who confirmed that an official from the Russian trade delegation had been detained "on suspicion of espionage."

In accordance with the Swedish authorities' decision, the head of the Swedish security police said, Smirnov will be expelled from Sweden without the right of return.

Russian Trade Delegate Expelled for Espionage

LD0104135195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1248 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Stockholm, 1 Apr—Mikhail Smirnov, an employee of the Russian Trade Delegation in Sweden, who was detained by the Swedish security services on 30 March on suspicion of espionage, today left Sweden following a decision by the Swedish Government.

Anders Eriksson, chief of the Swedish secret police [Saepo], has confirmed this to an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Stockholm. "Smirnov is outside Sweden," the Saepo chief said, but he did not answer the question of how the expulsion of the Russian trade delegate was carried out in practice.

Detention of Trade Official Called 'Provocation'

LD0204143295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 2 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—A high-ranking member of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations denounced the detention of a Russian trade official by Swedish police earlier this week as a "shameless provocation."

Mikhail Smirnov, 37, a member of a Russian trade delegation in Sweden, was detained by the Swedish police on March 30 on charges of espionage.

Russian Ambassador to Sweden Oleg Grinevskiy was summoned to the Swedish Foreign Ministry on Friday to receive an official protest.

Security Police Chief Anders Eriksson told ITAR-TASS on Friday that the Russian official had been detained "on suspicion of spying".

Eriksson said that, in conformity with a decision by the Swedish authorities, Smirnov would be expelled from Sweden "without a right to return to this country".

Smirnov left Sweden on April 1. The Russian Embassy sent a note to the Swedish Foreign Ministry voicing strong protest [as received] against Smirnov's detention and expulsion.

According to diplomatic sources, the Swedish security police has ample evidence proving Smirnov's involvement in espionage activities. However, it has decided against making these materials public in order not to disclose the techniques used by the Swedish counterintelligence officers, which appear to be very dubious.

The ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, termed them as a "provocation." He explained that Smirnov dealt with arms "marketing". In other words, he was looking for ways to sell arms (through legal channels) on the world market, he added.

Competition in this field is very sharp and some arms producers use all available means to remove their competitors, the official said.

He pointed out that one can only guess on whose order the Swedish counterintelligence used a "stooge" to "trap" Smirnov. However the latter was not engaged in any illegal activities which could damage Sweden's security interests, he added.

According to Smirnov, "the police detained him in the street, pushed him into a car, brought him to a police precinct and kept him there all night long." Smirnov went on a hunger strike to protest against the actions of the police.

The competent bodies in Moscow will thoroughly consider the incident and take all necessary measures, a representative of the Russian Embassy in Sweden told ITAR-TASS.

Commenting on the incident and its possible impact on Swedish-Russian relations, the Swedish justice minister told the Swedish Telegraph Bureau that it will not mean much as regards the building of good relations with Russia, but said these actions are hardly compatible with the way one expects from a democracy.

Justice Minister Kovalev Receives OSCE's Gyarmati

MM2903140495 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In the Corridors of Power: Contacts" rubric: "The Justice Minister Has Agreed on Cooperation with the OSCE"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Valentin Kovalev, Russian Federation minister of justice, has received Istvan Gyarmati, the personal representative of the acting chairman of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe]. In the course of the conversation the OSCE representative shared his impressions of his latest trip to the Chechen conflict zone and raised a whole series of questions, including the possibility of creating a permanent mission in the Chechen Republic. The Russian minister of justice in turn briefed Istvan Gyarmati on the process of restoring the organs of military justice in the Chechen Republic and the judicial system as a whole. The sides agreed on cooperation between the OSCE permanent mission, which is being set up, and the Interim Oversight Commission on the Observance of Citizens' Rights in the Chechen Republic.

Kozyrev Briefs Newsmen on Syrian, Lebanese Talks

LD3103144095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Anatoliy Golovastov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut March 31 TASS—"Russia firmly supports sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Lebanese Republic and is

striving to help find a solution to the Lebanese south problem on the basis of Resolution 425 of the United Nations Security Council," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a news conference here today. The news conference was held right after the signing of the Russian-Lebanese intergovernmental agreement on trade and economic cooperation.

In the words of the minister, Russia is interested in stable Lebanon and the soonest political settlement in the Middle East.

The minister is concerned with the certain stagnation of the regional peace process and stressed the need for the soonest progress in the Mideastern settlement.

Kozyrev said that his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was "very detailed" and expressed the hope Russia can "make a certain contribution" to the achievement of regional peace.

Speaking of Russian-Lebanese relations, Kozyrev noted that "bilateral ties are historical and have a good prospect for development".

In his turn, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Buwayz is sure that today's agreement will lay down the basis for new more advanced relations between the two states.

The Russian minister arrived in Lebanon today within the framework of his Mideastern tour. He has visited Egypt and Syria. After meeting Lebanese President Ilyas al-Harawi today Kozyrev will fly for Israel. He is also expected to visit the Gaza Strip.

Kozyrev on Plans for Nuclear Cooperation With Syria

LD3103170195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1522 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Anatoliy Golovastov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, 31 Mar—"Russia intends to provide the necessary assistance to achieve progress in the Lebanese-Israeli area of a Near East settlement on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated here today. [passage omitted]

At the end of his official visit to Lebanon A. Kozyrev today left by air for Israel.

In a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent Kozyrev said that in its capacity as a co-sponsor of the Near East peace process Russia intends to promote the participation of the region's countries in the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. "Russia," he said, "is in favor of the document being a universal one and being extended indefinitely, and considers it an important factor that Syria and other Arab countries are

maintaining a balanced constructive approach in this regard." According to the minister he will discuss this problem in Israel.

Kozyrev stressed that he does not expect objections from the U.S. side over the plans for Russian-Syrian cooperation in the building of a nuclear power station in Syria. "They are only plans and it is a matter of investigating the possibility of such an agreement. We would be surprised if our partners attempted to object to any move by us to enter any market. In the countries participating in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty any such project can always be under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and we see no need to ask for anyone's permission," the minister pointed out.

Kozyrev Arrives in Tel Aviv

LD3103195395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1736 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Anatoliy Korzhentsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv March 31 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has arrived in Israel on an official visit as part of his Mideastern tour. The minister has visited Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

During the three-day Israeli stay, the minister will meet Israeli President Ezer Weizmann, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Perez to discuss the Mideastern peace process and Russian efforts for its boosting, including in the sphere of stagnant Israeli-Syrian negotiations. The sides will also discuss prospects for Israeli-Russian relations in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres.

On Saturday the minister will visit the Palestinian autonomy area in the Gaza Strip to meet Yasir 'Arafat and discuss possible Russian assistance to the implementation of the PLO-Israeli agreements, including economic cooperation with the Palestinian autonomy.

Says Russian Proposals Evoke Interest in Middle East

LD3103204795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 31 Mar 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DAMASCUS, Mar 31 (Interfax)—"It is in Russian interests to stay in the Middle East and contribute to a political settlement and find new ways for cooperation with the Middle Eastern countries," Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in Damascus Thursday evening after a meeting lasting over three and a half hours with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

This is what the international community is expecting Moscow to do, Kozyrev told accompanying Russian journalists, "if only because Moscow shows no bias and will serve as a counterweight to other contributors to the regional peace process."

According to Kozyrev, "Moscow places no more bets on one single country and its proposals for a Middle East settlement are meeting with an eager and positive response now that the peace process faces a crisis."

The minister expressed hope that Russia "will succeed in making its contribution to overcoming this crisis" and giving the negotiating process a chance.

Kozyrev refused to dwell on Moscow's new initiatives before he had covered the Israeli leg of his Mid East tour. He said, though, that Moscow focused on both "Palestinian and Syrian-Israeli fronts."

It is essential to take into consideration the interests of both parties, he said adding that Damascus took an "encouraging" view of the new initiatives.

The impression is, Kozyrev went on to say, that the Syrian leadership seriously desires to search for mutually acceptable solutions. "Public diplomacy is untimely now. It is necessary to retain what has been achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli line and still attain some rapprochement on the Syrian-Israeli line," he declared.

Kozyrev indicated that the Syrian view of the Golan heights problem remained unchanged. Russia mediates a rather delicate search for possible rapprochement but both parties have to do something, he said. "One cannot expect Syria or Israel alone to take action."

According to Kozyrev, one should proceed from the assumption that the sides "should move toward each other inch by inch." "Regrettably, the Israeli-Syrian talks, announced in Washington, have been hard going. No wonder, it will take robust U.S. and Russian efforts to ensure real rather than superficial progress," he stressed.

Touching upon Russian-Syrian relations, Kozyrev stressed the need for "coming to grips" with the problem of Damascus debt to Moscow, totalling \$10 billion.

At the same time, the minister recalled that "U.S. does not demand old debts, annually investing approximately \$5 billion in the region instead." "In these conditions, Russia should think of not so much clinging to the past as looking into the future, yet sticking to our rights and interests in regard to debts."

Kozyrev voiced hope that a solution to this problem "could and should be found in the near future."

He also reported that an agreement had been reached with the Syrian leadership to set up a joint commission for studying the possibility of building a nuclear power plant in Syria.

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Syria is keen to do more business with Russia, and Russia, for its part, is ready to assist the construction of a thermal electric station in Syria, Kozyrev said.

According to him, discussions with Syrian leaders centered on various aspects of cooperation linked to the maintenance and repair of Russian or former Soviet military equipment.

Kozyrev reported that during talks with the Syrian president he indicated a number of concrete fields where the two countries could cooperate. The Syrian leader, as Kozyrev noted, voiced full approval of these areas of cooperation and expressed the desire to promote contacts.

On Friday, Kozyrev pays a brief visit to Lebanon. The last leg of his Middle East tour will be Israel.

Kozyrev Meets Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza Strip

LD0104190695 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is having a meeting in the Gaza strip today with the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. As part of his tour of the Middle East countries, Mr. Kozyrev has already visited Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon and has arrived in Israel. His mission has the purpose of giving another impetus to the peace-negotiating process in the area, above all in the Palestinian and Syrian directions. The talks between Israel and Syria had reached an impasse because of the problem of returning the Golan Heights occupied by Israel in 1967. At the Israeli-Palestinian talks the two sides have so far failed to agree on the make-up of the future council of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza strip. The question of who has the right to elect this council also still remains unsettled.

Further on Kozyrev Meeting With 'Arafat

LD0104201395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1953 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Anatoliy Kerzhentsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tel Aviv April 1 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza on Saturday [1 April] to deliver him a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Kozyrev and 'Arafat discussed prospects for Russian-Palestinian relations and peace talks between Palestine and Israel.

The Russian foreign minister confirmed Russia's readiness to provide assistance to both sides of the negotiating process.

The PLO leader thanked Russia, as a co-sponsor of the Madrid peace conference, for its efforts to facilitate durable and fair peace in the region. At the same time, he blasted Israel for delaying the transfer of the West Bank under Palestinian self-government.

He reiterated the need for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab settlements on the eve of elections to the Palestinian Autonomy Council.

'Arafat handed over to Kozyrev a personal message for President Yeltsin.

Earlier today, Kozyrev met with Ahmed Freij, Palestinian mayor of Bethlehem, to tell him that Russia hails the Palestinian people's commitment to peace and will support it politically and economically. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev Holds Talks in Israel

LD0304083995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0642 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Anatoliy Kerzhentsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv April 3 TASS—The Middle East peace process and the development of Russo-Israeli relations were discussed in detail during talks in Jerusalem on Sunday between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

During the meeting, Mr Rabin said there are no political reasons for a postponement of the implementation of the agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the granting of autonomy to the Palestinians. However, terror against Israeli citizens on the part of Palestinian extremist groups is the main obstacle to the realisation of the agreement, he emphasised.

Mr Rabin reaffirmed Israel's striving to achieve peace with Syria. He said the sides carry on talks on four main aspects concerning the delimitation of the inter-state border, the determination of a stage-by-stage timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli troops to new lines, the coordination of the withdrawal with the process of normalising bilateral relations, and measures to ensure mutual security.

Having accused Iran of supporting international terrorism, including that in the Middle East, Mr Rabin expressed Israel's concern over the strengthening of Russia's cooperation with Iran and the delivery of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran for nuclear power stations.

At the same time Mr Rabin again stated that Israel would not join the international treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons until this is done by all Arab countries and Iran.

At the close of the meeting, Kozyrev told journalists that he had delivered a personal message to Mr Rabin from

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Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Kozyrev said his meetings with Israeli and Arab leaders made it possible to get acquainted in greater detail with the positions of the sides and draw a conclusion that the peace process in the region does not develop as rapidly as one would like it to do.

On Saturday the Russian foreign minister was received by Israeli President Ezer Weizman. Kozyrev conveyed the Russian president's invitation to Mr Weizman to attend the forthcoming festivities in Moscow on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

Kozyrev toured the Jerusalem memorial complex commemorating Jews who had fallen victim to the Nazis during the Second World War, and laid a wreath.

On Sunday afternoon Kozyrev had a meeting with Faysal al-Husayni, PLO representative in East Jerusalem.

Iranian Embassy Denies Talks Held With Israel

LD3003211895 Tehran IRNA in English 2008 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, March 31, IRNA—In a letter to the KOMMERSANT daily the Iranian Embassy here Thursday disowned secret talks between Iran and the Zionist regime as had been alleged by the daily in its 10th. March issue.

The Iranian Embassy said that the Islamic Republic of Iran did not recognize the Zionist regime to begin with, and that it could not have engaged in any such talks with that regime at any level.

In its 10th. March issue, the daily had indicated that Iran had engaged in secret talks with the Zionist regime, Germany acting as a go-between.

Official Discusses Nuclear Issues With Iranian Envoy

LD0104160095 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 1, IRNA—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov here today criticized the U.S. double standard stance in the international scene and underlined that the Russian stance towards cooperation with Iran was for the peaceful use of the nuclear energy and it is not changable.

In a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Safari, Mamedov on Saturday expressed the outcomes of his recent visit to [words indistinct] and said that he has submitted a report of his visit to Iran to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin as well as to the Russian foreign minister.

No one should have doubts on the nuclear cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia, Mamedov underlined.

He said that the U.S. is criticizing the Russian policy on the third world including Iran and in return Russia criticizes the U.S. relations with the Israel, South Korea and Japan.

Safari praised the Russian unchangable stance towards Iran, despite the foreign pressures brought about against Russia.

Lobov Links with Japanese Sect Detailed

MM2803112495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 95 pp 1-2

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Strange Ties of 'Kremlin Dreamers' with Japanese 'Aum Shinrikyo' Sect"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo—We all remember the tragic events a week ago—after a chemical attack by terrorists in the Tokyo subway 10 people died in terrible agony from the poison gas sarin and over 5,000 were hospitalized and an anxious expectation of a terrible new scourge has swept many world capitals.

Today in Japan they are no longer speculating as to who is responsible for this action and the series of investigations carried out by the Japanese police and prosecutor's office leaves just one "address"—the "AUM Shinrikyo" religious sect.

That is where the evidence points, and it was the sect's followers who engaged in wide-scale experiments to produce toxic gases, and it was from the lips of its spiritual leader and founder, Shoko Asahara, that the word "sarin" was first heard in the country. The already dark and scandalous reputation of "AUM Shinrikyo" in Japan is now acquiring all the regulation criminal features—the sect has been deemed antisocial by the Japanese authorities and deprived of its religious "patent" and its leaders are being sought and the police states that it intends to interrogate them on suspicion of planning and organizing mass murders.

The Russian Trail

Against this grim background everything to do with "AUM Shinrikyo" acquires sinister features and the Japanese authorities together with the broad public, setting about removing the "abscess," are studying most scrupulously and carefully the roots which this organization has put down, the sect's connections, and its partners not only in the country but also abroad. Alas, Russia has a special place in this investigation. The imagination of the Japanese is excited by the Russian military helicopter found among the sect's possessions, the Russian-produced military gas analysis equipment found in the "AUM Shinrikyo" laboratory, and the persistent rumors of the possibility of the leakage from Russia of the technology for the production of chemical weapons.

But the main point is not these details and not even the fact that in Russia the sect has three times as many acolytes as in Japan itself—what is important is that it is

in Russia (and only there) that "AUM Shinrikyo" operated under conditions of almost absolute freedom, achieving recognition in the top echelons of the Russian power structures and enjoying the patronage of influential people who gave the sect the "green light" over the vast expanses of Russia.

The development of this part of the subject in the Japanese mass media is rapidly gathering momentum, which promises nothing pleasant for our diplomats and political leadership. We should have no illusions—Moscow has been drawn into a very dirty story with grave consequences which it will have to spend a long time carefully washing off. The Moscow authorities' swift restrictive actions against the Russian branch of "AUM Shinrikyo" against the existing background were obviously insufficient—to clear themselves they must return to the sources, turn to those who started up the sect in Russia, and draw organizational conclusions which can, albeit belatedly, "save the face" at least of President Yeltsin.

In this truly fundamental matter the president must be helped publicly in two important respects: First, Yeltsin's opponents in Russia (for instance former vice president and Lefortovo prisoner Rutskey) are already, through the Japanese mass media, accusing Yeltsin of patronage of "AUM Shinrikyo"—Rutskey stated in an interview with Japanese television that he has met with sect leader Asahara on direct instructions from the president's apparatus; second, part from that hint there is another—there are serious grounds for supposing that through traditional official channels the thrust of the scandal surrounding the Japanese sect will not reach Yeltsin in full or will not reach him at all—the president's very close associate and a very influential figure in Russia's top political circles, Security Council Secretary Oleg Ivanovich Lobov, who will obviously not readily report on himself to his bosses, has a direct relation with the history of the appearance of "AUM Shinrikyo" in Russia.

For these reasons there is some point in tracing briefly the course of events, for which we must return to the recent past—just a little over three years ago.

Founding, Giving Away, Appointing

The wave of creation under specific celebrities of various foundations, associations, and universities with their associated real estate and other material assets, which has reached hurricane dimensions in unfortunate Russia, first appeared in the fall of the memorable year of 1991, after the putsch. The country should know the true heroes of the movement—one of the first owners of such a "holding" was Oleg Lobov, who got through a directive signed by the Russian president founding the Russian-Japanese university, which acquired real estate in Moscow (the famous house with columns on Petrovka) and a chief in the form of O.I. Lobov, who at the time held the post of head of the president's council of experts.

It is curious that not only for Russian professional Japanese experts and diplomats but also for the Japanese side, whose involvement is unambiguously signaled on the university notice board, the appearance of the structure under the leadership of "newfound Japanese expert" Lobov on the clear horizon of bilateral relations was a complete surprise. Even many officials did not learn of it immediately but only a long time later when in December 1991 an official telegram arrived in the Tokyo Embassy from Smolenskaya Square announcing the birth of the new corporate entity. Through the Russian Foreign Ministry this "entity" soon informed the embassy of its intention to travel to Japan for its own presentation in early 1992, for which instructions were given to find Japanese sponsors, to compile a program, and to carry out other organizational work begun at the start of 1992.

The university (which to this day contains nothing but the sign and the rented house with its colonnades) was greeted with caution by the Japanese, sensitive to anything dirty—members of the university delegation headed by Lobov were refused visa support by the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the federation of economic organizations, and the Japanese firm which finally undertook the task is now asking not to be mentioned in the press in order to avoid sullying its reputation. The program was nonetheless compiled and those sent on the trip made a single addition, which nonetheless took the form of a directive—making time available for the delegation head O.I. Lobov to meet with... "AUM Shinrikyo" sect founder Shoko Asahara.

One can guess (and with a great degree of accuracy, for Tokyo is a small city) which minor Russian official (not a diplomat) provided Lobov with an "untraditional partner" with a great deal of money. But this "small fry" is irrelevant. Something else is striking (and dangerous)—people with little understanding of Japanese realities, people with big political ambitions and probably large commercial aims, were able to bulldozer their way through everything, making not only individual executives work for them for bribes but also making the entire state system work for them for nothing. In the embassy, to give it its due, Lobov's request for a meeting with Asahara caused a shock since even three years ago there was no organization in Japan with a dirtier reputation, but the instruction from its "own" Smolenskaya Square to assist the pushy university headed by an influential chief "with connections" was noted. Whether the Russian Foreign Ministry objected to the pressure and innovative approach of the "newfound Japanese experts" is unclear but something else is clear—under pressure from Lobov at a certain stage in the "anarchic" year of 1992 the Russian foreign policy department found itself directly involved in his personal amateurish games in the international arena (not only with "AUM Shinrikyo," incidentally, but also with Taiwan).

The personal meeting between Lobov and Asahara took place in Tokyo on the appointed day and the Russian

guests (in addition to Lobov the delegation included Zapalskiy and Kostyuk) went home pleased and carrying gifts and the first international project appeared in the daily routine of the Russian-Japanese university—the organization of a visit to Moscow by Shoko Asahara, “an eminent religious figure in present-day Japan.”

Kremlin “Hotline” Gives Go-Ahead

In the still youthful history of the “new Russia” much has already accumulated that is shameful and painful to recall. The mass arrival in Moscow on two chartered aircraft of 300 “AUM Shinrikyo” acolytes headed by the sect’s founding father in the spring of 1992 is in that sorry category. From the viewpoint of common sense, protocol, and everything else sensible and natural, Asahara’s Moscow benefit performance was not simply a mistake but an act of outstanding stupidity in which the entire Moscow political elite found itself involved thanks to the efforts of newfound Japanese expert Lobov.

A Kremlin palace was rented for Asahara’s performance, he delivered a lecture at the Moscow State University, met with Vice President Rutskoy and Parliament Speaker Khasbulatov, and had talks (?) with representatives of the patriarch. A second meeting with Lobov, in Moscow this time, during the visit, against the background of the events included in the Japanese guru’s program and coordinated “by the presidential apparatus itself” was seen as minor and insignificant and only Lobov’s government telephone knew how much energy its owner spent on the “international project.”

After that virtually everything was opened up for “AUM Shinrikyo” in Russia—official registration in record time, permission to create a network of regional branches (the Moscow branch was naturally accommodated until recently in the house on Petrovka belonging to the Russian-Japanese university), the opening of commercial branches and commercial benefits for “humanitarian purposes,” access to the mass media, including television, and constant radio broadcasting—both to Russia and beyond. It is striking that a number of representatives of “AUM Shinrikyo” including Asahara himself and his daughter even have reusable visas to enter Russia—that privilege, it is worth recalling, is given either for special services in trade turnover to selected firms or by special directive coming from the very top echelon and ensuring political guarantees to the user. Usually such a visa is valid for six months but Asahara has a “reusable” visa for a year and it is constantly renewed—for instance his present one was issued 16 November 1994 and is valid through 16 November 1995. God grant that it does not happen but it could very well be that the sect leader now being sought by the Japanese criminal investigation department has “gone to ground” somewhere in Russia, to which he is ensured free entry.

The driving force of Lobov’s government telephone proved monstrous in the young Russia but for the favorite child of Lobov himself—the Russian-Japanese

university—there were no longer any prospects after Asahara’s benefit performance in Moscow. The Japanese instantly (and permanently) abandoned the university and for the respectable public association with it became tantamount to “professional leprosy” and many Russians accidentally associated with it by force of circumstances, today try to avoid mentioning this “contact” or stress that they were not involved with everything in which this front was engaged. The sooner it disappears the better.

I shall not venture to say that to this day Oleg Ivanovich is nurturing “AUM Shinrikyo” as closely—I have no reports on this score, although the Japanese newspaper AKAHATA for one recently promoted Lobov almost to a “godfather” of the sect, putting the name of the secretary of the Russian president’s security council in the headline of an item about the Russian connections of “AUM Shinrikyo”. Other publications are also mentioning this name in their notes and it is not only and not so much Lobov who is “under fire” as other eminent figures with whom he comes into contact professionally and through friendship.

Individual mention should be made of the fact that the mercenary element of the Japanese sect’s stormy “romance” with Russian power structures and their valiant representatives should not overshadow purely political elements, although it is intriguing, and according to the verbal evidence of eyewitnesses to some of the high-level meetings between representatives of “AUM Shinrikyo” and Russian new-wave grantees, after the “contact” thick packages, envelopes, and even entire briefcases would be “forgotten” in the Russian offices. But what is of fundamental importance in the story of “AUM Shinrikyo” in Russia is not money but politics—the obviously abnormal situation in the country whereby any contortions are possible by influential figures with no ties except their personal ambitions and under no one’s control.

“Spitting and forgetting” in this case will hardly work—the scandal around “AUM Shinrikyo” is too great.

Lobov Objects to Reported Links With Sect
*LD2803153895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328
GMT 28 Mar 95*

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 28 TASS—Both Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov and former speaker of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov object to press reports on their dubious contacts with Shoko Asahara, leader of the religious “Aum Shinrikyo” sect, which is suspected of having poisoned many Tokyo subway passengers on March 20.

ITAR-TASS was told at the Russian Security Council that Oleg Lobov, who was chairman of the government

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and then presidential expert council from 1991-1992, had met Asahara only to coordinate his charity campaigns.

In turn, Ruslan Khasbulatov, who also received the "Shinrikyo" leader in March 1992, told ITAR-TASS that he did not want to "make excuses" in this connection. During the meeting Asahara "said he wished to help the Russians at a difficult period of their history by donating one million disposable syringes, equipping a free-of-charge hospital in Moscow at the expense of the Japanese side, supplying equipment to two food-processing enterprises, and helping to restore several artistically highly valuable monuments", the press service of the Russian Supreme Soviet reported after the talk.

It is believed in the Russian Security Council that the top-ranking officials, the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Russian special services should check more carefully the backgrounds of the missionaries and commercial travellers, offering their services to the Russian authorities.

Moscow Denies Aum Shinrikyo Trained in Russia *LD2903095695*

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 0855 GMT on 29 March broadcasts a report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasilii Golovnin on various Japanese publications that allege that a group of Aum Shinrikyo followers have undergone firearms training in Russia. The agency did not name the publications and was skeptical about Japanese claims that the cult followers could have learned how to make the nerve gas sarin in Russia.

The agency said that the "Russian Ministry of Defense has ruled out the possibility that Aum Shinrikyo's activists could have visited Russian military facilities."

The agency quoted an interview by Colonel General Stanislav Petrov given to ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin, in which Petrov said that "not a single citizen of Japan, including Shoko Asahara himself has ever visited Russian military facilities and it is impossible to imagine that someone, as is being alleged, could have familiarized them with chemical weapons."

The general dismissed the claims that Aum Shinrikyo had ties with a Russian Academy of Sciences institute specializing in medical and chemical research.

The agency went on: "As for a gas analyzer said to have originated in Russia and found in possession of the cult followers, it can be acquired not just in Europe, but also in Africa. The general also rejected the theory that the poisonous gas that the terrorists used in the Tokyo subway could have been acquired at Russian military facilities. He said that all poisonous substances were under strict control and properly guarded and it was impossible to try and misappropriate even a small amount of them."

SVR Denies Contact With Japan Over Aum Shinrikyo

LD2903165895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 29 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semyonova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—A spokesman for the Russian SVR [Foreign Intelligence Service] intelligence service denied on Wednesday [29 March] media reports that SVR allegedly had warned the Japanese Secret Service about terrorist plans of a sect linked to the gas attack in the Tokyo subway.

"We know nothing about any contacts of the Russian intelligence with the Japanese Secret Services about activities of Aum Shinrikyo", VSR [as received] spokesman Yuriy Kobaladze told TASS.

According to Kobaladze, such reports might derive from "the wrong interpretation" of a news conference held by SVR high ranking officers Vyacheslav Trubnikov and Gennadiy Evstafyev on March 23.

Trubnikov and Evstafyev said that the tragedy in the Tokyo subway could be prevented if Japanese secret agencies had conducted thorough investigation into the June 1994 accident in Japan's Matsumoto, where seven people died from toxic gas poisoning.

Trubnikov also told reporters that "if Japanese and our secret services cooperated in the field of control over the non-proliferation of chemical weapons, this would help prevent such incidents" adding that so far, SVR has no such contacts with Japan.

Japanese Diplomat Denies State Produces Sarin

LD3103121895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 31 (INTERFAX)—A senior Japanese embassy official has dismissed the statement by the U.N. Secretary General's chemical weapons consultant Anatoliy Kuntsevich to the effect that Japan "industrially produces sarin and other war gases".

"This statement is groundless and there is no evidence to support it", the Japanese diplomat said.

He pointed to the fact that Kuntsevich, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, derived his conclusion from how the Japanese police handled the effects of the terrorist attack in the Tokyo subway on March 20, when many passengers were poisoned with sarin and 10 died.

"The police did their duty, and their professionalism is not a reason for such far-reaching conclusions", the diplomat said.

He recalled that the Japanese Constitution prohibited the production of chemical, biological and other kinds of

weapons of mass destruction. "The Japanese government respects and fully complies with the fundamental law", the diplomat said.

Japanese Embassy, Justice Ministry Officials Discuss Sect

LD3103210095 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1759 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Olga Semyonova]

[*FBIS Transcribed Text*] Moscow March 31 *TASS*—First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Moscow Masato Watanabe visited the Russian Justice Ministry today to meet head of the ministry's department for legal information and public relations Vladimir Zimonenko and head of the ministry's department for registration of rules of religious associations Aleksandr Kudryavtsev.

The meeting [was] held on the Japanese initiative aimed to exchange information on the activities of the Japanese Aum Shinrikyo religious sect, a ministry representative told *ITAR-TASS*.

The sides attentively studied their documents on the sect activities and found out that the Russian branch of the sect was registered on June 18, 1992, after a corresponding registration in Japan.

Bearing in mind repeated complaints launched against the sect to the law-enforcement bodies, the Moscow prosecutor's office held an investigation and the Ministry of Justice annulled the sect registration on July 15, 1994.

In November 1994 Japanese citizen Fumihiro Jeyu submitted an application for repeated registration of the sect to the Justice Ministry, but the application was rejected on February 3, 1995, "because of the religious organization's violation of the Russian legislation and the lack of documents' correspondence to the law." The Russian federal service for TV and radio was timely informed about this, stressed Zimonenko.

In his words, registration certificates of the Aum Shinrikyo branches in Moscow, the Moscow region and Vladikavkaz, Northern Ossetia, have been annulled as well.

The Russian side has appealed to Japan for official confirmation or rejection of the Russian press reports on the Japanese annulment of the Aum Shinrikyo registration certificate.

The meeting participants agreed on regular exchange of information on the issue.

Deputy Defense Minister Kokoshin Comments on Indian Visit

MK2803074095 Moscow *KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian* 28 Mar 95 p 4

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov under the "Russian-Indian Military Ties" rubric: "How To Convert Personal Sympathy Into Profits"]

[*FBIS Translated Text*] After several years of stagnation, Russia-Indian relations are gradually beginning to pick up steam. Over the past two years both Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin have visited Delhi. But it is military-political and military-technical ties that appear to have the greatest potential. Last week saw a visit to India by a large Defense Ministry delegation under First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, who kindly agreed to comment for *KOMMERSANT-DAILY* on the results of the trip and the general prospects of Russian-Indian cooperation.

What Mr. Kokoshin described as one of the main results of the trip was the discussion of long-term prospects of international relations. India has set as its national goal to be among the world's elite. And although, as the Indians emphasized, their main objective is a technological breakthrough and the military side is somewhere on the back burner, the army has not been neglected there, the deputy defense minister said—and the armed forces continue to grow fairly fast. Units visited by the Defense Ministry delegation were in good shape; discipline and a smartness of bearing and appearance were evident, along with "a lust for new technology." There is a huge gap, however, between new and obsolete weapons in service. In that regard Mr. Kokoshin thinks it necessary to develop military cooperation: "Not only an exchange of personnel and the training of specialists, but also a wide-ranging exchange of views on operational matters, the tactics of using forces and weapons." Military-technical cooperation also depends on the fact that "one may have perfect weapons, but they will not fit in with one's general concept."

In the deputy minister's view, Russia and India share a joint desire to achieve a higher status in international relations by stepping up their economic development. At the same time, Russia has something to learn from Delhi's flexibility: "They have an understanding of how to penetrate a market, what market it should be, what niche they should fill, how to attract capital." The first deputy defense minister pointed out what he described as India's impressive growth in science-intensive industries, microelectronics, space technologies, the production of new materials. But these are, in his words, just enclaves. In India, there is no continuous front of forward movement, for which reason they are interested in Russian fundamental science. As for Russia, Mr. Kokoshin thinks, it has an advantage in terms of "the critical mass of scientists, technological and scientific culture." Purely human sympathies for each other are also important. Indian politicians—from right to left—have no anti-Russian sentiments, Mr. Kokoshin said. "This is hard to measure; this rarely influences terms of a specific transaction, but it has great importance in macro-politics." The two sides do not have "identical views" on all problems, of course, Deputy Defense Minister Kokoshin admitted, in particular, with regard to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

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Foreign Ministry Condemns Kiev's Actions on Consular Group

LD3103162595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1446 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Mar— Moscow regards as unjustified Ukraine's demands that a group of Russian consular workers in Simferopol should stop their work, according to a statement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs which was passed to Interfax on Friday [31 March].

The statement says that on Friday Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign minister, made a representation to the Ukrainian ambassador to Moscow.

"We regard the actions of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in relation to the consular group and a campaign unleashed around it as an unfriendly act which runs contrary to the nature of the relations between Russia and Ukraine," the representation says.

The Foreign Ministry statement says that "on 30 March the Russian ambassador to Kiev was invited to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he was handed a note by First Deputy Minister Boris Tarasyuk with an ultimatum for the mobile consular group of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine, which is working in Simferopol, to stop work immediately."

"The consular group of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine arrived in Simferopol after numerous requests from residents, public organizations, and Crimean leaders, and after discussing with Kiev the possibility of such a trip," the statement says.

It stresses that the "Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs cannot agree with the accusations against the Russian consular group which are being put forward using tendentious and unjustified information."

Moscow thinks that the accusations against the consular group are unjustified and the reaction from the Ukrainian side is "out of proportion."

"In response to a proposal by the Russian Foreign Ministry to discuss together the questions which had arisen on the Ukrainian side, Kiev continued to insist on the departure of the Russian consular group from Simferopol, otherwise threatening to take administrative measures up to expelling it," the statement says. "Such actions made it impossible for the Russian consular group to continue its work."

The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over the "attempts of certain forces in Crimea to portray the work of the Russian consular group as interference in Ukrainian internal affairs." "It is particularly alarming that such actions are allowed to happen at an important time when preparations are being made for the Russian-Ukrainian summit which is intended to raise the relations between our countries to a qualitatively new level," the statement says.

Moscow Protests Kiev Attack on Consulate in Crimea

LD3003184095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1653 GMT 30 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow March 30 TASS— Ukraine's recent actions against a Russian consular group in the Ukrainian semi-autonomy of Crimea hamper the development of friendly and good-neighborly relations between the two countries, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nikita Matkovskiy told a briefing today. Matkovskiy said Ukrainian authorities acted under the pressure of "certain political circles" giving no further details.

On March 28, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry addressed its Russian counterpart with a note asking to "immediately halt the activities" of a group of Russian diplomats who had come to Simferopol to process local citizens' applications for double citizenship. The note said the group's activities ran counter to the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations.

During a 10-day stay in the Crimean capital, the group has experienced a constant pressure of high-ranking officials from the Ukrainian Justice and Foreign Ministries, the Migration Service and law enforcement agencies, who urged it to stop its activities and leave the republic. Local media bodies, as well as some Ukrainian legislators, started accusing the group of "recruiting" the Crimean citizens (for the Russian citizenship), holding a "secret referendum", and "all manner of horrors" from the earliest days of the group's stay in Crimea, Matkovskiy said.

Such accusations are clearly absurd, given that the group consists of only three diplomats and one typist, he stressed.

The Russian Foreign Ministry could not but respond to such demarche, Matkovskiy said. On Wednesday, the Ukrainian ambassador in Moscow was officially told that Russia could not agree with charges based on unjustified and biased information.

"We suggested to the Ukrainian side that problems related to the work of the consular group should be discussed either in Moscow or in Kiev", the Russian official said adding that no applications for citizenship would be accepted until the end of this week. However, the group continues to consult the Crimeans on this and some other issues.

The Russian Foreign Ministry hopes that the Ukrainian side will not undertake actions running counter to the interests of development of friendly bilateral relations, the ministry's spokesman said.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Plays Tennis, Takes Mineral Bath in Kislovodsk

LD2903170995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555
GMT 29 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has spent his third day on the leave working on documents, playing tennis, and swimming in a water pool, presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told TASS on Wednesday. Medvedev said the Russian president was in good mood and felt well.

Yeltsin left Moscow on Monday for a two-week "working vacation" in the southern Russia. He made a stop-over in Ryazan and then flew to Mineralnyye Vody to travel on to Kislovodsk, a resort in the northern Caucasus.

In the course of sanatorium treatment, Yeltsin took a Narzan (local mineral water) bath on Wednesday. The weather in the Kislovodsk area is good, and the Russian president has taken a walk roundabout his dacha. Yeltsin also worked on documents he had brought from Moscow. There were no working meetings today, Medvedev said.

Yeltsin Moves to Sochi To Continue Holiday

LD0304104795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006
GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 ITAR-TASS—Since the weather in Kislovodsk worsened, Russian President Boris Yeltsin decided to continue his vacation in Sochi on the Black Sea, and arrived there earlier than planned. ITAR-TASS learned this from the Russian president's press service on Monday.

Although the Russian president will be vacationing from today in Sochi, a meeting with leaders of the North Caucasian region remain in his plans. However, the meeting will be held at a later date, ITAR-TASS learned from an informed source in the Kremlin.

According to available information, Yeltsin had not given up his intention of visiting the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic in the course of the next few days.

In the meantime, local authorities in Kislovodsk, where Yeltsin had vacationed for a week, try to use the stay of the Russian leader to advertise their spa to Russians who fear to rest in the Caucasus because of the war in Chechnya.

Kislovodsk and neighbouring Pyatigorsk, Yessentuki, Zheleznovodsk and other North Caucasian resort towns are not bustling with holiday makers with the approach of summer as before.

"The Chechnya fears are absolutely groundless", according to Caucasian Mineralnye Vody recreation zone director Aleksey Kulakov. "The distance between the resorts and the theatre of military operations in Chechnya is over 300 kilometres", he told TASS.

"Boris Yeltsin's week-long stay at the resort confirms how good its climate is for health", he added.

President Yeltsin Signs 'Controversial' Anti-AIDS Law

LD0304083595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0822
GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the controversial anti-AIDS law on Monday [3 April] which envisages obligatory HIV tests for foreigners arriving in Russia for more than three months and their deportation in case of positive results.

The test is not required if a foreigner submits a document certifying that he or she had been tested for AIDS at home.

The law was passed by the State Duma on February 24, 1995 and caused protests from various human rights groups which insisted that the obligatory tests were a violation of basic rights and freedoms.

Initially the lawbill envisaged obligatory HIV tests for all foreigners regardless of the duration of stay in Russia. But tourism officials resolutely protested saying that would radically decrease the flow of foreigners into the country and would cause considerable financial losses. The three-month limit of stay in Russia was then introduced into the law.

Last week experts of the Moscow-based centre for efficient protection, training and prevention criticised the law saying that the mandatory examination of foreigners and Russians of certain professions for HIV-infection ran counter to international documents on human rights. The provision of the law on the deportation of HIV-positive foreigners also caused concern.

Concerning deportation, Russian Health Ministry experts who had drafted the law said that Russian medics were merely obliged to do every effort to protect their compatriots from being infected with the imported disease.

Kremlin Denies Presidential Elections To Be Postponed

LD0304101495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0941
GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—A high-ranking Kremlin official denied the claim voiced by former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy that the

administration of Boris Yeltsin is planning to hold a referendum to extend the office term of the Russian leader for another four years.

"Neither a plan to postpone presidential elections, nor the holding of a referendum to extend the office term of Boris Yeltsin have been discussed in the administration of the head of state", Mark Urnov, head of the analytical centre at the Russian president, told TASS Monday. He stressed that his Kremlin position leaves no doubts that he would have known about such plans had they existed.

On Sunday Rutskoy, a major Yeltsin's [as received] foe, told a congress of his "Derzhava" State Power movement that he had information about Kremlin plans to prolong Yeltsin's powers until the year of 2000.

Presidential aide Georgiy Satarov was more vigorous in his comment to Rutskoy's statement. "With the same success we could have claimed that the leader of the 'Derzhava' movement is preparing a coup d'etat", he told TASS and advised the press not to report such "false claims" as this "creates a background which can make it difficult to notice a real threat to society if it emerges".

Satarov also denied allegations that a referendum may be called to probe the public opinion before the upcoming elections like it had been already done by Yeltsin during the stand-off between him and the former Supreme Soviet in April 1993.

"There are other methods to probe the mood of the electorate - opinion polls, for example", Satarov said adding that a referendum is "too costly an event both financially and politically".

Rybkin Discusses Yeltsin, Chechnya, Security Council

AU2903160895 Vienna KURIER in German 29 Mar 95 p 4

[Interview with Russian State Duma President Ivan Rybkin by Stefan Galoppi; place and date not given: "The Duma's Relationship With Yeltsin is Correct"]

[FBIS Translated Text] State Duma President Ivan Rybkin is one of the highest-ranking politicians in Russia. In an interview with KURIER he commented on:

—Parliament's relationship with President Yeltsin 18 months after the fight over the White House:

"We have a correct working relationship. The president is very active. In 1994/95 he has introduced 90 bills, of which 47 have already been passed and two vetoed. Things are more difficult when the drafts originate from the Duma. In that case the president is very careful and there are certain principles on which we cannot reach an agreement."

—Criticism of the Security Council being a "new politburo:"

"According to the Constitution, the president has to coordinate cooperation between the legislative, executive, and the judicial powers. The Security Council is one of the instruments for this. It does not issue any orders, but recommends things to the president."

—The fight against organized crime:

"Our situation is very difficult, and the effects can already be felt in West Europe. In this connection it is important that we crush the armed revolt in Chechnya. Thousands of criminals have been looking toward Europe from there, because Grozny has never had them under control."

—The war in Chechnya:

"There used to be a dictatorship of criminals there. Dudayev had armed for war and was threatening Russia with several Chernobyl-type catastrophes. There was no political solution. Unfortunately Russia has disbanded its elite troops for combating terrorism. They would have achieved the aim within a few days, involving fewer victims and less damage."

—The danger of authoritarian tendencies in the December elections:

"Part of the population will always be vulnerable. But I am sure that the majority have a lot of common sense and will not tolerate any such thing. Four to five parties will form in the future and will cover the entire political spectrum. Two or three of them will form a coalition during the transitional period lasting about eight years, until Russia is among the most highly developed countries in Europe. We will protect our older generation. But the young will have to work with their hands, brains, and feet. We will not be moved by the tears of idlers."

Expert Group Discusses Formation of Federation Council

MM2903135995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Orlov: "How To Form the Federation Council?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest session of the Expert Analysis Council under the Russian Federation President's Staff was devoted to the question of how to form the Federation Council.

According to Viktor Borisyyuk, deputy director of the analytical center of the head of state's Staff, the draft laws prepared by representatives of the Central Electoral Commission as well as by Mikhail Mityukov and Vladimir Shumeyko provide for the appointment of members of the Federation Council by the heads of administration of the Federation components.

However, within the Expert Analysis Council there are other opinions on the procedure for the formation of the Federation Council. There is a proposal, for example, to

retain the present system of representation of regional executive and legislature leaders in the upper chamber. Admittedly, in that event there will be problems over their need to work in Moscow on a permanent basis, as required by Paragraph 1, Article 99 of the Constitution. The desire for broader participation by the people in the process of forming the Federation Council has also been expressed.

In Viktor Borisjuk's opinion, the norm contained in Paragraph 2, Article 95 of the Constitution on the "admission" of representatives of the regions to the Federation Council was included in the Fundamental Law at a time of intense political struggle when the head of state needed the support of the leaders of the Federation components. Now, in his opinion, this norm is ceasing to be relevant and the Fundamental Law needs to be amended.

The discussion of plans for the formation of the Federation Council is still at the initial stage now. The parliament has yet to adopt them and the president to sign them. The procedure could be protracted and December, when the mandate of the present upper chamber of parliament expires, is not far away.

Korzhakov Seen Using KGB To Expand Power

MK3003130095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1, 2

[Report by Rustam Sabirov under the "Special Services" rubric: "Reanimation of the KGB Is Quite Probable. This Might Well Be What Aleksandr Korzhakov—the Russian President's Omnipotent Security Head—Is Aiming At"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Contrary to all expectations, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has started his vacation, did not sign the Law on the Russian Federation Federal Security Service (FSS) [FSB - Federalnaya sluzhba bezopasnosti] 28 March. It will be recalled that this document was approved by State Duma deputies. Thus, the question on the subsequent fate of one of the most influential domestic special services has been somewhat suspended. Meanwhile, as claimed by some top officials of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) [FSK - Federalnaya sluzhba kontrrazvedki] (specifically, by Lieutenant General of Justice Yuriy Demin, FCS Legal Directorate head, who gave an interview to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 March 1995) the future agency should by no means be regarded as the former omnipotent KGB. Some independent experts, however, are of a different opinion in that respect.

The personality of Aleksandr Korzhakov, head of the Russian Federation Presidential Security Service (PSS) [SBP - Sluzhba bezopasnosti presidenta], has evoked such an active public interest lately both in Russia and abroad that it has probably brought him considerable gains. It seems that it is high time to analyze Mr. Korzhakov's political behavior and its possible consequences.

Authoritative political observers continue to state that the effect of this state official on Russian policy is growing. The country's chief bodyguard is determining the strategy of oil industry development; is dealing with arms trade issues; is an expert in the banking business, nuclear power engineering, nonferrous metallurgy; has his own opinion on the privatization of state property, and so forth.

Of course, all this is largely due to his closeness to President Yeltsin. Aleksandr Korzhakov, however, is no longer satisfied with his task of providing solely physical security for the head of state. Sooner or later, we shall live to see the name of the service, headed by him, significantly updated.

The Russian Federal Security Service is about to emerge. The State Duma believes that it is merely renaming the FCS, with some expansion of its powers. In reality, however, the independence of this quite constitutional counterintelligence agency is becoming more and more illusory. The process of absorbing the FCS—a manifestation of which was the dismissal of Yevgeniy Savostyanov, FCS Moscow Directorate head—is in full swing. The PSS' expansion infringes also upon other, apparently independent, special services, converted suddenly into "second-rate" agencies—the Federal Agency for Governmental Communications (FAGCI) [FAPSI - Federalnoye agenstvo pravitel'svennoy svyazi i informatsii], tax police, and others.

Possibly, the motivation of Aleksandr Korzhakov's activities is linked with his plans for the future. By 1996, it would be more advantageous for him not to remain the president's personal security service head, but to become a much more influential and long-term leader (or, at least, coordinator) of the entire system of Russia's security organs. Then there will be more chances to influence the course and outcome of the election, or even, in general, to secure himself from any—most unfavorable for him personally—outcome.

For the time being, however, the PSS and the Main Protection Directorate (MPD) [GUO - Glavnoye upravleniye okhrany] are building a system of their own regional subunits, establishing control over the Federation components. The plans are to expand the powers of the service, to increase the budget and staff, to extend its activities to the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff.

Incidentally, the mistrusted General Staff seems to have been simply driven away from the president. For instance, a well-informed foreign source said that—due to strict measures taken by Korzhakov—military intelligence reports, which recommended abstaining from bringing troops onto Chechen territory, were blocked and did not reach the president.

It would be wrong to believe that Mr. Korzhakov is unique in his desire to centralize the special services. For

instance, U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, in his "Reinventing Government" report, specifically mentioned "enhanced intelligence community integration" as a top priority. In Mr. Gore's opinion, this will make the 13 American special services act more efficiently, as a single team.

This report contains two more recommendations, which, as Gore believes, could contribute to the further perfection of the state decisionmaking system in the United States: to broaden the intelligence services' responsibilities, and to review the system of information collection, so that it could better comply with top leadership requirements. In fact, the aim is to bring those who generate intelligence products and those who make decisions closer to each other. Not every simplification, however, implies improvement of work and a rise in efficiency.

There were earlier well-known attempts to integrate security services, too. For instance, Ronald Reagan's 1981 "transition" team also attempted to centralize them, but failed. As noted by R. Godson, a well-known American expert, "an independent counterintelligence organ could soon become just another costly bureaucratic monster, interfering with other governmental organs' business, impeding their normal functioning, and attempting to appropriate their functions. Such a super-giant would not be able to work efficiently."

Incidentally, not long ago in this country, an attempt was made to "integrate" law-enforcement bodies: The president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR), by his edict No. 289 of 19 December 1991, instituted the RSFSR Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs. The Constitutional Court, however, interfered, and the edict was annulled.

In August 1991, the two USSR agencies were quite independent, but even then an attempt was made to involve them in unconstitutional actions. It would be much easier to implement such plans if these and other similar agencies created on the former KGB's basis were united again, or, in fact, were under the control of a single person—the head of the Russian intelligence community.

The subsequent steps toward actual consolidation of special services could be as follows:

- gradual detachment (at least by its name) of Korzhakov's service from the president. This development is noticeable even now, as evidenced by some public statements of PSS representatives;
- gaining maximum profit from using the miscalculations and failures in planning and implementing operations on the restoration of the constitutional order on the territory of the Chechen Republic. The forthcoming analysis of operational results could suggest that the present FCS and its leader Sergey Stepashin personally are inefficient in their work;

—similarly, a large amount of materials discrediting other special services—the tax police, customs officers, the FAGCI (this agency has already been stripped of several units, which was compensated by transferring to the FAGCI a part of the former Directorate for Information Resources at the president's administration)—will be used;

—the functioning of the U.S. intelligence community will be advertised as an interesting experience, attractive due to its high efficiency. Special attention will be drawn to the institution of the Director of Central Intelligence—the DCI. His coordinating role in the community of special services—retaining their administrative and operative independence—is unlikely, however, to be emphasized. It is noteworthy that the Security Council at the Russian Federation president has also been transformed—rather imperceptibly—from a consultative and coordinating body into the organ that actually makes decisions and is vested with the functions of control over power agencies;

—it would also be necessary to suggest that the present Security Council fails to fulfill its coordinating role with respect to special service activities;

—as an intermediate, milder variant, it could be proposed to form an intelligence community nucleus, which would unite only organs responsible for internal security (a kind of counterintelligence community). The function of foreign intelligence, assigned to the FCS, allows, after all, to do without willful "know-it-all's" from the Foreign Intelligence Service and the Main Intelligence Directorate;

—the return of an investigatory directorate to the FCS would be a very fruitful example. This fact will probably be inflated and exemplified as a universal and commendable event.

One should not forget, however, that one of the conditions for efficient work of the state decisionmaking system is the possibility of obtaining information from several independent sources. If special services are integrated, such a possibility will be significantly limited both for the president and other high-ranking decision-making officials. Correspondingly, the probability of obtaining distorted objective information will increase.

The opposition will have a good opportunity to accuse the president of attempting to revive the repressive practice of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD, a KGB predecessor) and to establish the personal dictatorship regime, which will obviously have an adverse effect on his political reputation.

It should be emphasized: Formerly, the KGB was under strict Party control (except for Yagoda's and Yezhov's times). In the absence of the USSR Communist Party and in our unripe democracy, the organs watching over the country's leadership, left to their own devices, are becoming especially dangerous.

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**Private Security Services Warn Government
Against Abolition**

*MK3003120095 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in
Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1*

[Open letter by participants in a conference of chiefs of Moscow region detective and protection firms and security services, in the "Official" column]

[FBIS Translated Text]

To: Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin, Russian Federation Government chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin, State Duma and Federation Council deputies, and Security Council Secretary O.I. Lobov

We, participants in a conference of chiefs of security services and protection and detective agencies, guided by an aspiration to make our contribution to enforcing law and order, the legitimate rights and interests of entrepreneurship and citizens, consider it our duty to address you with the following statement.

The existence of the institution of private ownership in the country is impossible without private nonstate protection. Today, under the law "On Private Detective and Protection Activity in the Russian Federation," more than 30,000 protection enterprises operate in the country, where hundreds of thousands of highly trained professionals are employed, who have the experience of work in law enforcement bodies, as well as military servicemen and retired military.

The State Duma is considering amendments to the law, which call into question the existence in Russia of private investigation and protection activity.

The state's ban or obstruction of private protection activity will inevitably lead to destructive processes, fraught with a destabilization of the political situation in the Russian Federation.

More than 800,000 people will be left out of work.

Some 95 percent of property in the private sector of production, trade, services, and banking will be left without protection. Protection of organization and enterprise leaders and political figures will cease. The place of licensed security guards will be taken by criminal elements. Organized crime will multiply its financial possibilities and rise to a fundamentally new level.

All entrepreneurial activity will forever be effectively suspended in Russia while the funds in circulation among nonstate structures will inevitably flow to foreign banks.

The sprouts of the Russian market economy will be fully wiped out.

We request that in considering the above bills, our opinion be taken into account and that our efforts in fighting organized crime be supported.

Adopted unanimously by participants in a conference of chiefs of detective and protection firms and security services of the Moscow region.

Public Russian Television Deputy Chief Appointed

*LD2903165195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in
Russian 1500 GMT 29 Mar 95*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Yevstafyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Mar—The press secretary of First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays has been appointed deputy director-general of the joint-stock company Public Russian Television [ORT], Sergey Blagovolin, the director-general of Public Russian Television, told journalists at a meeting today.

Nosovets Appointed Yeltsin's Information Chief

*LD0204095795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in
Russian 0920 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Apr—By an instruction dated 31 March, Boris Yeltsin has appointed Sergey Anatolyevich Nosovets as head of the information directorate of the Russian Federation presidential administration. S. Nosovets was hitherto acting head of this directorate.

**Grachev Urges Military Policy To Draw on
Chechen Experience**

*MK3003121095 Moscow OBSHCAYA GAZETA in
Russian No. 13/89 30 Mar-5 Apr 95 (Signed to press 29
Mar) p 1*

[Report by Aleksandr Nikolayev: "Grachev Needs an Army for Street Fighting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has transpired at the Defense Ministry that Pavel Grachev has recommended to his staff to "adjust" the concept of army reform to the results of the military operation in Chechnya. In specialists' view, this will cause yet more spending hikes and will exacerbate the Armed Forces' plight.

Addressing military attaches, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff, spoke fairly frankly about problems and mistakes exposed by the operation in Chechnya, ranging from inadequate financing of the army to shortcomings in the organization of combat training and troop command and control. A few days ago, summing up preliminary results of the Chechen campaign, Pavel Grachev delivered a speech that was diametrically opposed to that of Kolesnikov, saying that military operations were organized in a nearly top-notch manner. This statement was followed by outright populist measures. The defense minister called up military district and army commanders and took them to an exhibition of military hardware crippled in Chechnya. Particular attention was drawn to the drawbacks of the hardware, which allegedly did badly in

an urban environment. The minister did not say a word, however, that the hardware was operated by inadequately trained crews.

Thus a search for "objective" reasons for military setbacks in the Caucasus was kicked off. Pointing out that the troops are technically unprepared for street fighting, the Defense Ministry started talking about the need for new military orders and a reequipment of the army.

This is not a new idea. One year after the Afghan war broke out, "parquet generals" pushed the panic button over the Soviet Army's inability to fight in the mountains. Urgent steps were taken to revamp the combat training system to place emphasis on "Armed Forces' operations in mountainous terrain." The most fervent campaigners started simulating mountains on flat test ranges, making hills of sand and available trash. Immense money was hacked out to carry out this absurd campaign. The war in Afghanistan ended, as did the urgent need for the ability to fight in the mountains, and the huge money turned out to have been wasted.

Specialists of the General Staff Academy note that the same is happening to the "Chechen combat experience." Selecting the ability to mount assaults on cities as the army's priority objective, adjusting the concept of military reform to fit in with this objective, and hastily ordering new technological developments would be absurd. What if tomorrow the army has to fight in the barren steppes or in marshes? Will the organization of combat training be revamped once again and arms reordered retroactively? Or, maybe, the concept of "using the army to assault cities" has long-term prospects? Today they have ruined Grozny, tomorrow they will have to pacify miners in Kemerovo and Vorkuta, or to cut down to size "separatists" in Cheboksary. Admittedly, this is not an entirely groundless suspicion. But in this case the issue is not the army, but its elimination.

Right before our eyes the idea of setting up mobile rapid deployment forces has illuminated the minds of the army top brass and died down just as quickly. While remaining Pavel Grachev's sweet dream, it has caused immense damage to the ground troops. The next blow is aimed at the airborne troops, in place of which the defense minister will evidently try to set up assault detachments to seize cities. An act of yet another reckless adventure is hanging over the army, threatening fully to disrupt the domestic defense system in the end, military analysts predict. The military budget has been virtually completely devoured by the Chechen operation, so to carry out the new experiment Pavel Grachev will need new huge appropriations the state does not have.

Strategic Missile Forces' Program Viewed

MM2803132895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Mar 95 First Edition p 7

["Viewpoint" article by Sergey Ptichkin: "We Will Produce Strategic Nuclear Forces." That Is Probably

What Those Who Have Embarked on the Reform of the Soviet Nuclear Triad Think...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The transition from the Soviet Army to the Russian Army is a complex process which has been largely painful and affects each Russian, since it is paid for out of taxpayers' pockets—in other words, out of all of our pockets. We are entitled to occasionally inquire just who is spending our rubles in what way, and to what extent are the trillions borrowed from the people providing at least strategic security for that same people.

There is no disputing the fact that our strategic might is based on the Strategic Missile Forces [SMF], which were integrated in a highly complex way not only throughout Soviet territory but also in the defense sectors of the industries of all the republics of the former Union. It was these troops that embodied the nuclear missile might of the Soviet superpower for the past 35 years.

But the SMF Command found its feet almost immediately in the changed situation in the country following the USSR's collapse and, while other branches of service were only just embarking on Russian military organizational development, reported that a national (!) program for the development of Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces [SNF] had been taken conceived, elaborated, and begun to be implemented—a program which will end in the year 2005 with Russia being defended by "Topol" missiles. To what extent does their program accord with Russia's national strategic interests?

The Russian Federation's SNF triad includes aviation, naval, and ground force strike forces but, unlike the United States, where all components of the nuclear triad are subordinate to a single command which balances them without discrimination and solely in the interests of the United States, we have three commands that are independent of each other. Historically, the main role has been played by the SMF, which were the core of the organizational development of the USSR's strategic forces. Any request they may have made was essentially met forthwith.

As a result of the same historical continuity, the development of the Russian Federation's SNF has also been geared almost exclusively to the SMF. Without philosophizing, the missile forces took as the basis of the "national program" the provisions of the well-known START agreements, which were drawn up in the "old Soviet" era.

Have these been amended to take account of the enormous changes that have taken place in the world over the past few years or in the light of the country's severe economic position?

It is hard to answer that question in the affirmative, since a different tendency—to report as quickly as possible—is obvious. Otherwise, how can we explain the fact that agreements which have not yet legally come into

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force are being implemented and even over-implemented, effectively bypassing Russian legislation?

Here, for instance, is what KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote in the article "Missiles Changing Residence" on 17 March this year: "The Russian side effectively embarked on the implementation of the START I Treaty long before this document came into force (?). When it became known that on 5 December 1994 the START I Treaty had finally come into force, a celebration was under way at a missile base to honor top specialists who had distinguished themselves in the dismantling of RS-20 missiles."

Back in August 1994 IZVESTIYA (No. 159) informed us with all the technological details about how the SMF was fully implementing the unratified START II Treaty, which to this very day is the subject of disputes about whether it is actually in Russia's interests. What are the people's elected representatives making a fuss about? Why all these heated debates in the Federal Assembly? We have the "SMF empire" which is itself both a legislature and an executive.

The most amazing thing about this situation is the fact that some people are in a very great hurry to cut all Russian missiles by the deadline that was agreed with the Americans but has not yet been enshrined in law. So in whose interests are we acting—those of the United States or of Russia? Overseas the military do not take a single step without looking over their shoulders at the Senate—nobody would dream of implementing essentially illegal agreements. But this situation is entirely natural over here. Perhaps because they have a rule-of-law state where the law reigns supreme and national interests are sacrosanct. But here, it seems, the military are scared that the Americans will get cross if, owing to its poverty or disorganization, Russia is unable to destroy a certain number of missiles by, I repeat, an unlegalized deadline....

There is one other paradox in the "national" program—which missiles are being destroyed and which are being developed for the benefit of Russia.

Nuclear missiles are seen as a deterrent, and a sensible balance of such weapons is in the world's interests. Unfortunately, there are too many nuclear weapons in the world so, naturally, we need to gradually rid ourselves of them.

It might be assumed that the national SNF program would be geared to the removal from combat duty and the recycling primarily of the most dangerous and costly nuclear munitions in service. But the cuts have begun with the silo-based MIRVed ICBM's that are the world's cheapest to operate, safest in long-term storage, and most powerful—precisely those which ensure strategic deterrence. The ones to be developed will be the Topol mobile missile systems—which are costlier in every respect and far more dangerous to operate and store.

The references to START are very dubious in this instance. The MIRVed ICBM's to be destroyed under the treaties are coming to the end of their guaranteed service life. By the year 2005 they would in any case be decommissioned without putting any particular strain on the budget, since expenditure on this kind of recycling is planned in advance. What would be done then—either replacing the decommissioned ICBM's with new missiles, or using the empty silos for peaceful purposes—would depend on the prevailing situation at the start of the next millennium, including the stance adopted by the United States and China vis-a-vis Russia. Does this really run counter to the fatherland's state interests?

But the "national" SNF program calls for the destruction of MIRVed ICBM's to a very tight deadline, which will require additional expenditure. And—particularly hard to comprehend from the standpoint of national interests—the newly empty silos will be completely destroyed. Yet each of them is a complex piece of engineering that is ideally suited to the long-term storage of all kinds of toxic waste without any harmful impact on the environment. Why spend large amounts of money to blow up—and thereby pollute the environment—hundreds of potential burial sites for industrial waste, when we are facing an increasingly acute problem when it comes to the recycling and storage of such waste? Can even any tracts of concern for our state's strategic security in all its diversity—not only its nuclear missile aspect—really be discerned in this?

Instead of MIRVed ICBM's, the land-based SMF is taking as its basis and beginning the intensified development of Topol mobile land-based missile systems, which are the subject of a hype campaign that stands comparison with the "MMM" Joint-Stock Company. But many independent experts are claiming that, by abandoning silo-based missiles and switching to the Topol system, the SMF is actually reducing its combat capability in terms of certain indicators by a factor of...thousands. So what guarantee is there that the missiles, named by their designers for by no means the strongest variety of wood, can reliably defend Russia? The same experts make the well-argued point that the Topols are a greater danger for the state than any missiles that may be aimed at us.

The wise Americans have long since realized that the threat of nuclear missile war is more theoretical than practical, whereas the huge amounts of nuclear munitions stockpiled on your own territory constitute a definite and direct threat every second. The United States is currently doing everything to rid its territory of as many nuclear warheads as possible. Emphasis in the truly national program for the development of U.S. strategic nuclear forces is placed on delivery vehicles which can be located outside the United States—primarily aboard nuclear submarines. But our strategic nuclear submarine fleet is encountering obstructions, and the nuclear mining of our own territory is being continued with enviable stubbornness. And what is the result?

Whereas previously the location of SMF units was a closely guarded secret, today they are known to everyone from open-source articles. For instance, there are 36 Topol launchers stationed near Moscow in the population center of Teykovo. The systems, which are supposed to be mobile, never go anywhere and are virtually all housed in hangers at their main base. Three divisions of rail-mobile missile systems whose missiles have a cumulative yield of 100 megatons have long since lost their mobility, on the orders of General Secretary M. Gorbachev, and trundle around in the open air at sites a few square kilometers in area. To all intents and purposes the entire European part of Russia and a considerable proportion of its Asian territory have been mined with thermonuclear charges whose minimum total yield is not less than 10 megatons and in certain areas exceeds 50!

And however much the Federal Counterintelligence Service may monitor the safety of these open-air nuclear arsenals, however great an effort is made to guard them, and however much SMF experts may assert that they will "not explode," in the wake of Chernobyl we simply have no piece of mind.... God forbid, but if those megatons in Teykovo, Perm, or Kostroma were to go up, Russia would simply be wiped off the face of the earth.... Is that the ultimate "national" aim of the reform of the Russian Federation's SNF?

Of course, it is possible to argue against this view, by brandishing volumes of all kinds of agreements and treaties. But could the possible "SNF opponents" have given some consideration when these agreements were being drawn up to the country in which they live and supposedly serve?

And what are we supposed to do about the flouting of Russian laws when it comes to the early implementation of the START treaties, what are we to do about the nuclear mines strewn across Russia, what are we to do about the unplanned expenditure on numerous strategic undertakings and initiatives? Who is responsible? And will a real program for the development of Russia's strategic nuclear forces which is truly in line with its national interests and its national security be elaborated?

Federal Assembly

LDPR Members Quit, Cite 'Systematic Insults' by Zhirinovskiy

LD2803162095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 28 (INTERFAX)—Chairman of the State Duma Committee for Geopolitics Viktor Ustinov and two other committee members, Konstantin Panfyorov and Larisa Maksakova have quit the LDP [LDPR - Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction in the Duma because "of systematic insults addressed by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to deputies because of his objection to committee drafted bills." The three former LDP faction members, now belonging to

the newly formed Stability group of deputies, made this statement at a news-conference in Moscow on Tuesday.

According to Ustinov, since the State Duma's inception, the LDP faction has been deserted by nine members. However, he admitted that "the overwhelming majority of faction members behave as their helmsman (Zhirinovskiy-IF) bids them."

Asked by INTERFAX about the LDP chances at future parliamentary elections, Ustinov declared that "the peak (of the party's popularity-IF) has already passed, and there won't be such a success as was in December of 1993."

LDPR Deputy Wants Chinese Border Agreement Rescinded

LD3103134995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok March 31 TASS—State Duma member Yevgeniy Bolshakov said he intended to motion, at April 5 session, recalling of Vladimir Lukin from the parliamentary commission on demarcation of the Russian-Chinese border.

Bolshakov, of the Zhirinovskiy-led Liberal Democratic Party faction, said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today that Lukin, who is chairman of the State Duma International Relations Committee and of the Demarcation Commission, ignored interests of the Russian Far East.

Lukin calls for meticulous compliance with the 1991 inter-governmental agreement between the USSR and China to avoid complication of Russia's relations with its "great neighbour".

Under the agreement Russia is to cede to China 1,500 hectares of the Maritime territory.

Bolshakov said the territory's authorities were in the right arguing against giving it away.

Duma Committees Demand Special Rules for TV Privatization

LD3103163195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 31 (Interfax)—The State Duma's Mass Media, Property and Privatization, and Labor and Social Protection committees will insist that next Wednesday the Duma (the lower house of the Russian parliament) focus on special rules for the privatization of the state-managed TV company Ostankino. The bill on special rules was submitted for the second reading to the State Duma. It suggests that plans to sell the TV company to private owners be suspended until they come to rest on an appropriate legal foundation.

The chairman of the Property, Privatization and Economics committee Sergey Burkov (the New Regional Policies group) and the chairman of the Labor and Social Protection committee Sergey Kalashnikov (Liberal-Democratic faction) told journalists in Moscow Friday that "the authorities' decision to stake everything on the creation of the joint stock Public Radio and TV Company is meant to please the narrow circle of financial tycoons and is a slap in the face of the public."

Burkov wondered about the company's right to use "70 to 80 percent of the air time."

What is, in fact, a privately-owned company gets 148 billion rubles from the federal budget, Kalashnikov told journalists.

Regional Issues

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Chechen National Revival Head Interviewed

954F1934A Nalchik SEVERNYY KAVKAZ in Russian
25 Mar 95 p 4

[Interview with Salambek Khadzhiev, head of the Government of National Revival, by T. Gantimurova and R. Akhmedov, under the "Conflict" heading; in Grozny, 21 March: "S. Khadzhiev: 'Every People Must Live Through Its Own Fascism'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Salambek Khadzhiev was born 7 January 1941 in Dzhambul Oblast, Kazakhstan. He graduated from the Grozny Oil Institute in 1962, and in the same year began work at the Grozny Scientific Research Institute, where he followed a trajectory that took him from research assistant to institute director. From 1987, he was general director of the Groznetekhim [Grozny Petrochemical] Scientific Production Association. He was a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and of the Checheno-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1990-1991, he served as minister of the petrochemical industry of the Soviet Union. He is an academician and a prominent petrochemical scientist (three inventions, 207 scientific publications). He has received the orders Red Banner of Labor and the Medal of Honor. Since fall of 1991, S. Khadzhiev has been one of the most active figures in the Chechen opposition. A member of the headquarters of the 50-day opposition rally on Theater Square in Grozny (on 4 June 1993, the rally was fired upon by forces loyal to D. Dudayev; approximately 60 people were killed). On 26 November 1994, he became the head of the Government of National Revival [PNV] of Chechnya, formed in the village of Znamenskoye on the basis of the Provisional Council of the Republic of Chechnya. Since 3 January, the PNV and its head have been in Grozny.

21 March. The Grozhiproneftekhim building. Of the buildings in downtown Grozny, this has suffered least of all. The temporary headquarters of the PNV are now

here. Awaiting our meeting with S. Khadzhiev, we were standing in the courtyard when bullets began to whistle over our heads, and then bursts of automatic rifle fire rang out. At a nearby military department post, we received the explanation that a sniper had been discovered. There was another version as well: Soldiers acting as telecommunications workers had climbed onto the roof of the Grozhiproneftekhim building in order to put up an antenna, and they had been taken for fighters.... However, it was not possible to clear everything up in detail: Grozny is still a front-line city. With the approach of darkness, any movement there ceases: The military has warned that they are blocking the streets with mines on tension wires, which they remove by morning. And thus it is, every night.

When we walked into the office, Khadzhiev was finding out over the telephone how the situation with bread for the city was to be. And it was with this that our conversation began.

[Khadzhiev] There is no flour. It is running out at the MChS [the Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and the Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters], and the ministry does not have the funds for the purchase of a new consignment. Flour could be brought in, but at retail prices. And do people have money? Before 1 April, the MChS does still have some funds, but after that?

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] Did Chechnya's financing begin as of 15 March, as promised?

[Khadzhiev] We received the first sum, for paying the salaries of teachers and doctors, including January. The remainder of the financing is going through the Russian Federation ministries. I cannot tell you with certainty whether they have received the money or not.... In January-February, the MChS saved us, although people do curse them. Now the construction ministry has started to bring in some kind of construction materials. Several carloads of flour stand in Ishcherskaya.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] Its price will be the price in Russia as a whole, without a discount?

[Khadzhiev] And who is going to give the discount? We got the flour at the expense of a budget credit of the Chechen Republic. I will have to return this money, and one does not want to drag the republic into debt.... But we will still give a discount in any case. Almost the whole city already has gas, except Lenin Prospect—there have been big breaks there.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] And plumbing?

[Khadzhiev] I think that over the course of eight to 10 days, half of Grozny's residential areas will have water.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] Upon whom do you depend in your work?

[Khadzhiev] In hard times, people show both greatness of soul and great baseness. There are some who go

around stealing. But there are also others, whom I saw in Grozny already on 3 January—cold, hungry, unpaid, but they are working.... I first found Ruslan Isayev (SEVERNYY KAVKAZ, No. 7), and now he has been appointed chairman of the Chechen Republic Red Cross. And the physician Madina. The two of them buried the dead.... Madina was soon blown up by a mine—one of the corpses was mined.... She left two children behind.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] Have the corpses been cleared off the streets?

[Khadzhiyev] For the most part, yes. The ones that are left are those that have been buried in rubble, the ones in cellars. But in those January days, we buried bodies without noting a description or distinguishing marks, under fire. Now we will have to identify and rebury them. In addition, there are regions to which we still have no access, mainly in the outlying areas. Meanwhile, the burial teams have already lost several sanitation workers, and five Russian soldiers....

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] What helps you keep your presence of mind?

[Khadzhiyev] The first thing is that we simply have to survive, and someone has to concern himself with this. It would be possible to leave all this, to go to Moscow and from there to give free advice. That is possible. But it is a problem, let us put it this way, of the scope of one's personal conscience.... Whoever has lived in Grozny has seen that sooner or later, all of that must explode. The second thing is this: For me this is a question of complicity with one's generation. The virgin lands were being developed—I was there. In Kondopoga, they built an enormous pulp and paper plant—I decided that the construction could not go on without me. The third thing is the consciousness that every people, however sad this may be, must, it seems, live through its own fascism. But the people have survived. And how much more will we survive! Keep in mind that we still did manage to guard the greater part of the population against confrontation.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] But, after all, almost 40 percent of the territory of Chechnya is still controlled by Dudayev.

[Khadzhiyev] No more than 5,000-10,000 people are fighting on his side. A people's war did not work out; after all, in that case, the Chechens could have put forward 120,000-125,000 fighters.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] How do the residents view the actions of the federal troops? There have been many reports of marauding and violence on their part.

[Khadzhiyev] Altogether there are about 40,000 servicemen in Chechnya now. What percentage among them are scum, even in the best of circumstances? Let us say, 5 percent. But this is 2,000 armed men, and that is enough to drive any city out of its mind.... We catch them and prosecute them.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] In Chechnya in 1991, everyone was saying that you should have come forward as a candidate. Does it not seem to you that if you had been elected, we would not have what we do have?

[Khadzhiyev] At the time, I believed that Dudayev was a suitable leader. I have friends and relatives here.... Power would mean refusing everyone, quarreling with everyone. Whereas Dudayev was a man from the sidelines; it would be easier for him to refuse someone, to demonstrate toughness. A Chechen, the first general. Why could he not have been clean, why should he have turned out to be this way?... There were no ominous symptoms. His wife is Russian.... Well, everything was "for him." At that time, looking at the previous authorities, we thought that nothing could be worse. It turned out that something could be! By that time in Chechnya there was too large a mass of people who were ready to resolve their problems with a weapon in their hands.... Most likely, I would not have been able to deal with them then.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] How can one explain the situation that took shape then?

[Khadzhiyev] The civilized layer, which determines the model of society, was very thin. The main mass breached it easily. I am speaking mainly about the people living in the mountains. They were left one on one with their problems—remember how, in the mountains, several villages were destroyed by mudslides, and the people simply had nowhere to go. At that time there was already high unemployment in those regions.... We ourselves pushed them toward violence, not leaving them any other way out. Another reason was that we grew up under a system where, if a boss was bad, he had to be removed. And who would come to replace him, no one thought about that. The party would pick someone. We engendered this whole war together.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] How many peaceful residents have perished in Grozny?

[Khadzhiyev] It is difficult for me to give you an exact answer. But if one is to judge by the reports of the burial teams, then the number is between 3,000 and 5,000. Losses in the tens of thousands are impossible even theoretically. Kovalev can cite whatever he likes, but it was our burial teams that were working, not his, and they did so before my eyes.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] What will be the first to be restored in Grozny?

[Khadzhiyev] Living quarters, of course. In parallel with this, hospitals and schools. All the rest will come later.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] Those who would like to remain living in Grozny but who have lost their living quarters...

[Khadzhiyev] We will restore them all.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] And where are they to live now?

[Khadzhiyev] We will put them up with relatives, in unoccupied apartments. We will also put out rail cars, at least for the summer.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] How do you find Chechnya's petrochemical complex?

[Khadzhiyev] It is 70 percent intact.... Right now it cannot give the republic anything, but in two or three years, we will see. At this point we are planning on working on our own oil; I think that by the end of the year it will be possible to get up to 2 million tonnes of it. But that is not much money—300-350 billion rubles [R]. Whereas at the first stage it is already necessary to get 5-6 trillion.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] Is it true that around the PNV there are many people from Dudayev's entourage?

[Khadzhiyev] Well, I would be glad to see some of his workers with me. Mugagdayev, Imayev, and Udugov are talented people. Maskhadov is deceived, but in his own way, in a military way, he is a decent man. But I do not know to what extent they are spattered with blood, and I do not want to clear that up. I do not want to get involved in political squabbles.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] How do you see your political future?

[Khadzhiyev] I warned everyone who works with me that as soon as a new Chechen parliament is elected, the PNV will lay aside its powers. I myself determined the length of time I would work in the PNV—half a year, a year and a half maximum. If I am again elected head of the government? For my family, this would be the very worst variant.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] Do you not miss scientific work?

[Khadzhiyev] I do not know.... I am now so harassed by what is happening that I do not have time for that.

[SEVERNYY KAVKAZ] What would you yourself like to say to the readers of SEVERNYY KAVKAZ?

[Khadzhiyev] I would like to invite as many people as possible here—to restore the city. I do not have a lot of money for them, but I do have a lot of work.

FSK Intercepts Rockets Destined for Chechnya

MM2903154595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Bulygin under "RV ROSSearch" rubric: "The Intelligence Report Was Spot On and the Missiles...Almost Got Through to the Gunmen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuban, Adygea, Stavropol, North Ossetia—Axes have disappeared from the market

in Adygea. Instead Adygean activists of the Union of Afghan Veterans are using different implements now—antitank guided missiles. They hid them under sacks of flour intended as humanitarian aid for the federal troops stationed in Chechnya and for refugees from the strife-torn republic.

However, these awesome weapons were destined not for Russian soldiers but for the opposing side. Otherwise there would have been no need to take such precautions to hide the missiles from the special services or devise so many decoys along the route from Maykop to Nazran so as to keep them from the prying eyes of those officials responsible for the delivery of the humanitarian freight. That is the view maintained by staffers of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] who discovered the deadly cargo a long way from the Republic of Adygea's territory—on the territory of North Ossetia.

The power structures in Kuban, Stavropol, and North Ossetia have set up a system of checkpoints which has gone some way toward preventing illegal arms shipments from entering Chechnya. But what about the authorities in Adygea itself, where there is no lack of talk about organizing their own state system? A republic of half a million people with its own internal affairs ministry. You would think that nothing would escape the notice of the sleuths here. M. Bedzhanov, the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative in the Republic of Adygea, even accompanied the truckloads of "humanitarian" aid in his splendid Volga automobile. But clearly he was so overwhelmed by the fanfares marking the departure of the humanitarian aid that there was no time to check the contents of the trucks. This was forgotten about not just before the convoy's departure but also when it crossed the Adygean border. And thus the "gift" from Adygea linked up with the combined convoy heading to Mozdok from Krasnodar Kray.

The behavior of the escort team was so suspicious that you would think "the proper authorities" were bound to notice something. Two of the seven Adygean trucks arrived late, the crews of those particular vehicles frequently tried to drop behind the convoy, and the engines of their trucks constantly overheated. It is said that Bedzhanov, the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative in the Republic of Adygea, who was escorting the Adygean trucks, thoughtfully suggested that the main convoy go on ahead and the stragglers catch up later. But Lieutenant Colonel A. Darchenko of the kray civil defense and emergency situations staff flatly rejected this idea. There was a dangerous stretch of road ahead, he said, so it would be better to continue together rather than splitting up the escort of State Automobile Inspectorate staffers and OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment] personnel.

But diplomat Bedzhanov was not happy with this. He hurried off to see Colonel Yu. Artemov, chief of the Krasnodar Kray Civil Defense and Emergency Situations Staff. He put forward some very weighty arguments

in support of his request for permission to "proceed separately." He said that because of the frequent breakdowns suffered by the two ill-fated vehicles the combined convoy would even be late reaching Georgiyevsk. He also cited the instruction telling the Adygean trucks to set out for Nazran. They parted company amicably. But in the final straight, at the checkpoint in Nazran, Federal Counterintelligence Service staffers twigged that something was "amiss" with these unfortunate vehicles when they discovered three antitank guided missile systems packed under the sacks of flour. One of those vehicles had been fitted out by the republic's Union of Afghan Veterans, according to N. Konkov, deputy permanent representative of the Republic of Adygea in Krasnodar Kray.

The law-enforcement organs have already instituted criminal proceedings and the people who dispatched the "gifts" with the deadly content have been arrested.

I would not presume to judge the operational style of the federal and regional counterintelligence services. But A. Sidorenko, deputy chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service for Krasnodar Kray, voiced a few comments which prompted much gloomy reflection, hypothesis, and misinterpretations. In an interview in the city newspaper Sidorenko said that "back on 26 January this year we informed the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service about the preparation of a possible shipment of arms bound for Chechnya and named a specific individual who might be involved in this. Our information was corroborated."

What was the result of the Kuban counterintelligence officials' efforts? Did their "warning signal" get through to the Cheka people in Adygea? If so, why did the latter ignore this invaluable prompt from their neighboring colleagues? Since the information on the arms shipment to Chechnya had been confirmed and the name of the individual involved in the crime was known in advance, why was this combat arsenal, carried on transport not adapted to this purpose, allowed to enter densely populated cities and villages in the Republic of Adygea and Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays in a dangerous crime-infested zone?

After all, the date of the humanitarian aid convoy's departure was known in advance not just to the drivers and local officials but also to many ordinary inhabitants of Krasnodar, Maykop, and Armavir. Otherwise the large rallies would not have been held. Was the preparation for this event really kept a closely guarded secret from the counterintelligence people? Let us suppose that the Adygean chekists made a mistake: Why then did their well-informed Krasnodar colleagues not prevent the deadly cargo from crossing the territory of Kuban and Stavropol Kray? Was it the agents' intention to try to "trace the client" of the antitank guided missiles? Why then did the Federal Counterintelligence Service staffers seize the missiles in Nazran rather than wait until they were being handed over and catch the client red-handed,

so to speak? Doubtless the intelligence people have their own official secrets, and I have no criticisms to make of that. But citizens must feel confident that their safety is the primary concern of our special services. The "Adygean episode" suggests that the opposite is true.

Looting, Health Hazards in Grozny

MM2903160895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Aleksey Chelnokov: "Battles Again in Grozny. Epidemics and Looters Now As Well..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Grozny—The war in Chechnya is not yet a closed chapter, and the victims have not been counted. Its end is not in sight, either. But it is already clear that the losses to the country's economy will run into tens of trillions of rubles. This was said yesterday at a session of the State Commission for Reviving the Chechen Economy and Social Sphere. But an IZVESTIYA correspondent has seen for himself what kind of mess we are all going to be faced with: both ordinary citizens and the reckless politicians who started the war.

There are still explosions in Grozny by day. The kind that make your ears ring for a long time afterwards. Although they are not killing people: It is engineers blowing up Dudayev's gunmen's mined combat supplies or demolishing the skeletal remains of the buildings in the bombed-out center. You get the occasional bursts of automatic rifle fire at night: When darkness falls the gunmen go out hunting.

It is easier to get into the half-destroyed capital of Chechnya through army channels—from the military airfield in Mozdok. The air traffic controller was entering the names of the IZVESTIYA correspondent and photographer in the passenger list when the telephone rang: "What name?" he asked, and beneath the figure "3" there appeared "S. Khadzhiyev plus two." Salambek Khadzhiyev, chairman of the Chechnya government of national revival, would appear with his companions when the propellers of the transport aircraft were already whirring. The belly of the helicopter, known here as the "cow," was crammed full: an army truck, lashed to the floor by cables, with officers and men crowded together in the remaining narrow space.

The government head, with the added burden of a couple of plastic packages, refused to go through into the cockpit: He stood throughout the half-hour flight to Grozny, holding your IZVESTIYA correspondent by the elbow.

"You don't seem to have any security.... I mean, is it safe for you to be in direct contact with the people?"—was my tactless question.

Khadzhiyev was vague, saying that we are all products of the people, so who is there to be afraid of....

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Actually, the former union minister lives in maximum safety in Grozny—on the premises of the northern airport, which is crawling with military hardware (Russian generals spend the nights there). Khadzhiyev is taken to work in the new Government House, which is in a relatively unscathed scientific research institute building, by FGCIA [Federal Government Communications and Information Agency] armored personnel carrier.

Downtown Grozny has not changed since the massive artillery bombardment and aerial bombing, and looks like the end of the world. The resurrection of the city, begun through the efforts of the Emergencies Ministry, has gotten no further than the demolition of the "Chayka" Hotel on the bank of the Sunzha. For a long time this building was the bastion of Dudayev's gunmen, and later it became the grave of several dozen marines. Their bodies were pulled out of the ruins before our very eyes and packed in blue plastic sacks.

The bodies of Russian soldiers are being taken daily in their dozens to the Mozdok morgue. They are identified and sent on to relatives. The remains of local people, as a rule, have found their last resting place in mass graves.

The "corpse wagon"—a canvas-covered truck—was being unloaded at Grozny's central cemetery. Stretchers carrying the bodies that were still recognizable were placed in a row on the ground, in the squelchy mud. The mess of human flesh and torn-off legs and arms was tossed into a trench. It was around 10 meters long, but you could not see how deep it was—there was an untidy heap of bodies in the bottom, frozen in unnatural poses. Young or old, Chechens or Russians? It was impossible to tell. An intolerable stench hung over this unnamed grave—the sun was beating down and the (luckily) late spring was coming into its own.

This extremely onerous work is carried out in the city by local Terek Cossacks. They do not get a dime for it, as they admit, although they are officially working for the Chechen Administration of the Russian Federation Emergencies Ministry.

Anyway, it seemed to me that the only department trying to support the decaying life of Grozny is the Emergencies Ministry. Staffers from the ministry have set up three water-purification plants and 29 tankers are delivering water to various parts of the city.

For a city with a population of approximately 150,000 this provides around three liters of water per person per day. But by no means everyone who has spent a month in a cellar, with bombs raining down, is able to get to a water-distribution point. So they are getting water from the nearest well or stream.

There was once a multitier fountain outside the theater. The top of it was almost demolished by explosions, but you can see dark water rippling in the bottom. The entire population of the city center goes there with buckets, cans, and bottles.

"I let the water stand for several hours," an elderly woman who had come to the "waterhole," told me, "then I boil it and drink it. It seems OK—I have had no stomach problems."

Yet, she added. Yuriy Yevchenko, chief of the antiplague station special team, who is studying the possibility of epidemics in the city, also said that there had been no cholera or plague "yet." But he added:

"Cholera vibrios develop at a temperature of over 12-15 degrees. So before the summer comes we have so much work to do that it makes your head spin."

Hitherto the battle against the looming epidemic has been confined to special team workers spreading several tonnes of bait around Grozny to catch rats, which carry infection.

But we do not know whether these creatures will take the poison, because there is more than enough food for them amid the rubble of the cellars—this is evidenced by the nauseating smell of corpses emanating from the ruins.

There is no curfew in Grozny, strangely enough. Order in the city is maintained by around 2,000 special police unit officers, drawn from all over Russia. Festooned with grenades, their faces masked, they loiter at crossroads, stopping private cars, checking trunks and documents.

Every day there are more and more Chechen men on the streets. The special police certainly are not dragging them straight off to the filtration camp set up on the site of a former motor transport depot. But they do carefully examine their hands for calluses from assault rifle triggers.

There are around 15 people in the camp at the moment. Three of them are Russian soldiers, arrested for looting or rape. In all, criminal proceedings have been instituted against around 150 Russian servicemen and special police, I was told at the FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] territorial administration. Mainly for looting.

In the Emergencies Ministry hospital I saw a weeping woman alongside a man who had just been operated on. They were man and wife, Russians: Nikolay and Galina Yaikov.

"At 2200 hours," Galina said, "two Russians in military uniform drove up in a Moskvich. They hammered on the door. As my husband was turning the key in the lock a shot was fired from the entrance -- the bullet hit him in the chest."

The two men, as yet unidentified, searched the apartment and made a "noble" gesture—they apologized for the all but fatal shot, but refused to take the wounded man to hospital: They said it was too dark, too dangerous to drive around the city. Nikolay Yaikov had lost so much blood that the doctors gave their own to save him....

When dusk falls, life in Grozny ceases. No lights, just the occasional salvo of tracer bullets cutting through the sky. Snipers appear on the tall buildings. The special police units do not risk taking them at night. In the morning they find a mattress or a sofa drawn up to the window in an abandoned apartment, from where the Dudayevite gunman has been doing his nocturnal hunting.

Sometimes fires break out in houses—when they have done their robbing the looters set fire to what remains.

Intact apartments in the city are more precious than human life. There have been cases of Chechens trying to drive Russians out of accommodation.

Valentin Dunayev, 57, who has lived half his life in Grozny, complained to me:

"On 17 March I was approached by a man who introduced himself as Khadzhiyev's security chief. He put the muzzle of his rifle under my chin and told me to vacate the apartment. Then he said: 'We beat you Russians then and we'll beat you again'..."

(The Chechen prime minister, to whom I told this story, promised to "look into it." I do not know whether he did, but the commandant's office, which arrested his bodyguard, Musa Khadzhiyev, found he had an entire arsenal).

The problem of accommodation in the city is on a par with water supply and the danger of epidemics.

"The center of Grozny is practically beyond recovery," Salambek Khadzhiyev said. "Perhaps it is worth fighting for the presidential palace, which although destroyed does still have very solid foundations."

The small "Blueprint for the Restoration of Grozny," which runs to 20 or so pages, will give an idea of the future of the city. It will cost around 300 billion just to resurrect industry....

Although, as the Construction Ministry people write, this blueprint is not final: "Its formulation must be preceded by a decision on the city's role in the system of settlements of the North Caucasus and Chechnya." But contracts have already been concluded with all 14 main contractors who are prepared to "assimilate" the billions immediately.

The blueprints for master plans for Gudermes, Argun, and Shali are nearly ready. The construction workers are in a hurry.

Chechnya Restoration Commission Session Held
MM3103103895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in
Russian 30 Mar 95 First Edition p 1

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko under the "Chechnya. Events, Facts, Comments" rubric: "Test for Russian Statehood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 28 March Premier V.S. Chernomyrdin chaired a sitting of the State Commission for the Restoration of the Economy and the Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic. He recalled once again that the attention of the whole world is focused on this region, and that it is the touchstone on which the capability of the federal powers is tested.

From what Ye. Belyayev, chairman of the State Committee for Sanitary Epidemiological Oversight, said, the situation is under control at the moment. Grozny is now the main "danger zone." The destruction of the essential municipal facilities, the lack of drinking water, and the malnutrition among the inhabitants may become the "dry twig" which will ignite the fire of epidemics. It cannot be ruled out that last year's cholera vibrios may be revived in the waters of the Sunzhi River as soon as the temperature goes up to 17 degrees. Dudayev's regime simply did not notice the cholera and there were no vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, or measles for almost two years.

A great deal is being done. Anti-plague brigades are at work in Stavropol, poisoning rats and other rodents on the territory of the food depots and the meat combine. A total of 90,000 people have been vaccinated. But there are problems. First and foremost the restoration of a normal water supply. Then—food. There are not enough storehouses or refrigerators, and the issue of perishables has to be restricted. Belyayev promised to put 10 disinfection chambers into operation in the near future. But what is bad is that the special remedies for scabies and parasites which are supplied in enormous quantities to the republic are finding their way onto the black market—and some of them have built up in Kabardino-Balkaria. In-patients' clinics have not been reestablished yet, and the sick have to be treated at home.

Yu. Shafranik, chief of the Ministry for Fuel and Energy, promised to deal with the republic's power supply. Three of the four heat and electric power stations can entirely feasibly be put into operation by redirecting from elsewhere the current they lack. However, 35 substations have been destroyed. A total of 300 billion rubles [R] is needed to reestablish them urgently. The problem of protecting the power workers in the uneasy situation has not been solved yet. However, when the power supply is reestablished, it will be possible to quickly start up two oilfields and oil refineries. They will be able both to meet the needs of the region in terms of fuels and lubricants and to bring money in for restoration.

Deputy Construction Minister A. Babenko reported on the resumption of the work of the local housing and municipal services and the tasks involved in setting up the work of the water supply and a sewer system with purification equipment. There is six months' work here. Six contractors from Stavropol have already started work and there is a hope that local people will assist. However, because of a lack of funding, major Russia-wide construction concerns cannot start work.

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The question of funding is a most acute one. According to information from the Ministry of Finance, as of today the total expenditure, apart from military expenditure, has already reached the figure of R500 billion. In all, R2.8 trillion will be needed for 1995. The Ministry of Construction is complaining about the Ministry of Finance: Money is not coming in regularly. Agreements between the Ministry of Finance and nine commercial banks which could provide funds under the state's guarantee have not been signed. Central Bank Deputy Chairman V. Solovov said apropos of this: It will be very difficult until the local organs of the Central Bank of Russia and its cash offices are reestablished. But the premier has called on us to orient ourselves toward commercial institutions. At the moment there is no other solution.

S. Shoygu, minister for emergency situations, has also been called to order. According to his data, most construction materials, equipment, and mobile electric power plants which have been sent via the Ministry of Emergency Situations have come to a standstill at transportation junctions. The Ministry of Construction is justifying itself by saying that the railroad services have not yet been fully restored and "clots" are forming. This unfinished state is also hindering the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs: Sowing work is impossible at the moment.

The conference proceeded in a businesslike spirit. B. Chernomyrdin instructed the ministries to present precise calculations and schedules for the top-priority work. He made it incumbent on the Ministry of Finance to sign contracts with banks and on the Ministry of Fuel and Energy to settle the question with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A working group of representatives from the State Committee for Sanitary Epidemiology Oversight, the migration service, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Railroads will be created to coordinate emergency measures. Next week the premier promised to conduct a sitting of the state commission for restoration on the spot in Groznyy.

Assembly of Chechens of Russia Registered

MM0304130595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report from "In the Corridors of Power" column under "Movements" rubric: "Chechen Diaspora in Russia Joins Peace Settlement Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Justice Ministry has registered a new sociopolitical movement—the Assembly of Chechens of Russia. "This permanently operating structure, which has chosen as its slogan the words 'For Peace, Concord, and Revival,' is setting itself the task of getting the Chechen Republic back on the track of a normal life by means of people's diplomacy," ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI was told in an exclusive interview by assembly member Saypudin Visaitov. "It is our objective, with the

help of the most authoritative and most respected people in the republic, to unite the people who have been split by Dudayev and to return those who have left the republic to their homeland. We will fight for a political settlement to the situation in the region."

Journalist 'Knew of Dudayev Attack Plan'

MM0304095295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 95 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Article by Vladimir Yachenkov: "A Farce Which Turned Into a Tragedy. A Few Details Connected with the Death of the German STERN Magazine's Correspondent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok-Moscow—"The Moscow correspondent of STERN magazine, Jochen Pist [name as transliterated], aged 30, was killed while working in Chechnya. Together with photographers Nikolay Ignatyev, 38, and Vladimir Sorokin, 36, he was on his way to see some Chechen guerrillas in the mountains near Groznyy. Pist was killed by three bullets, and the photographer Sorokin received a wound which penetrated his leg."

(From an ITAR-TASS report dated 11 January 1995).

1. Vladimir Sorokin's story.

While I was on a business trip in the city of Vladikavkaz I found out that my colleague, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA press photographer Vladimir Sorokin, had been wounded. I left straight away and within three hours I was at the wounded man's bed in the Mozdok city hospital.

Sorokin's leg wound turned out not to be all that serious. Following an operation he felt quite cheerful, but when he greeted me he was clearly on his guard.

He told me how he, Jochen Pist, and another German journalist decided to take photographs of the railroad troops at work restoring the railroad tracks. He noted that the servicemen, worried about the safety of the correspondents, were very unwilling to agree to the photographs being taken, and only agreed to do so under pressure. They did not understand why the area around the bridge at Chervlennaya station was specifically chosen.

Fighters from the railroad battalion and the railroad special purpose militia detachment [OMON] greeted the unexpected guests warmly. While waiting for the construction-restoration train, which was supposed to approach the bridge any minute, the soldiers gave the guests canned stew and bread, and asked them about Moscow.

Suddenly, Sorokin remembered, the noise of the approaching train penetrated the mist. The correspondents grabbed their cameras. But just before this, tearing through the remains of the mist on the other side of the

railroad bed, a locomotive traveling at full speed unexpectedly broke loose. Bursts of automatic fire hit the Russian servicemen. And in a few seconds, there was a mighty explosion: The locomotive, which had rushed past the bridge, had crashed at full speed into the flatcars of the construction-restoration train approaching from the Chervlennaya station side.

Jochen Pist was killed by a suicide bomber firing an automatic weapon from inside the locomotive...

2. From competent sources. What happened...

The press center of the federal troops joint command, which is situated in Mozdok, found out that Vladimir Sorokin, a ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA press photographer, together with some foreign journalists, was working in Grozny under the patronage of Dudayev's propaganda services. This could not fail to generate surprise, since, in defiance of existing rules, he did not go to Mozdok and was not accredited at the press center to work in the armed conflict zone.

Accompanying some Turkish journalists, Sorokin used to start his working day by visiting the Dudayev bunker. And soon photo reports started appearing in the Turkish press which showed the course of events in the Chechen Republic from an obviously anti-Russian stance. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA photographer Vladimir Sorokin was the author of some of these—he signed his name on them.

At the end of December and the beginning of January, Dudayev announced the organization of guerrilla warfare against the federal troops. With the aim of attracting the attention of the foreign mass media, a major act of provocation, sabotage in the area of the strategically important railroad bridge over the river Terek, not far from Chervlennaya Station, was planned in Dudayev's headquarters.

According to a carefully considered plan, the bridge was mined—14 powerful anti-tank mines were hung from its abutments. A suicide bomber was chosen from a number of the most fanatical gunmen, who swore to destroy the bridge at the cost of his own life. To achieve this, following special orders, he was to drive a diesel locomotive filled with explosives at full speed and, right on the bridge, crash into the construction restoration train (the gunmen's command knew all the information about its intended movements). The mines would be detonated by the powerful explosion, and the bridge would be completely destroyed.

By the beginning of this operation, 10 January, up to 200 gunmen armed with firearms and armored equipment, were assembled in the area of the bridge. Following the explosion they were supposed to join battle and destroy the protection of the bridge.

Did Vladimir Sorokin and his foreign colleagues know about the intentions of Dudayev's men? There is no direct evidence of this, but, given their close ties with the

Chechen press center and the command of the illegal armed formations and the appearance of the photographers at the appointed time in the area of an imminent act of provocation, it can be assumed fairly confidently that they did know. And that they were prepared to record a base act of bloody provocation by Dudayev's men for the foreign press, making it out to be an episode in the successful guerrilla warfare.

Fortunately, the detailed operation failed. Pure chance, which could not have been predicted, brought a stroke of luck: When it was about to leave the station, for technical reasons, the construction and assembly train suddenly braked, and those few seconds were enough to destroy all the gunmen's calculations. It was too late for the locomotive containing the suicide bomber, which had speeded up to meet the train, to slow down, so it rushed across the bridge and the crash and the explosion occurred in the wrong place.

In the heavy fighting, Dudayev's men were defeated.

Evidently in the last few seconds of his life, rushing past the bridge, the suicide bomber took the reflection of the camera lenses to be the gun-sights of snipers' rifles. In a burst of automatic fire, Jochen Pist was killed on the spot. One of the fighters carried the wounded Sorokin away from the firing on his shoulders.

Private Vasilii Bondarev was awarded an order for his military feat—saving a Russian journalist. However, a letter arrived in the editorial office a few days ago from the railroad troops operating in Chechnya, which testified to the fact that a mistake had been made. The wrong person had been given the award. It was not Vasilii Bondarev who had saved Sorokin, but his friend and fellow serviceman Vladimir S. Zagain. Everyone in the railroad battalion where they serve knows this.

This is for the information of the Russian Ministry of Railways Railroad Troops command.

3. The paradoxes of military journalism. Commentary by Internal Services Colonel Vladimir Vorozhtsov, chief of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Public Relations Center.

The actions of representatives of the Russian mass media in Chechnya are a unique page in the history of our country's journalism. Over a period of almost two months, reports about events in the region were the main news of the day, and practically all newspapers, journals, television, radio, and news agencies followed the armed conflict closely. Scores of Russian and foreign correspondents have spent time in Chechnya and are continuing to work there.

I would divide this entire army of journalists and photographers into three basic categories.

The first is the professionals, who are well-prepared for work in combat conditions, and have Karabakh, Tajikistan, the Dniester region, and Abkhazia behind them.

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No matter who they work for—whether it is REUTER, NTV, or "Ostankino," their reports show the real course of events fairly objectively. The staffers of the Federal Forces Joint Grouping in Chechnya press center command find them easy to deal with and reliable, you can count on these guys. They include Sladkov ("Vesti"), Lenskiy (NTV), Romanov (government press service), and photographers father and son Karatayev, who are working for REUTER, and many others.

Although I must say in all honesty that a lot of the items prepared by these journalists frequently undergo inexplicable metamorphoses in Russian television programs. Television journalists' items are transmitted from Chechnya to Moscow via a space communications station. Naturally everything is recorded. We can see this information, and it is objective and correct. But what is interesting is that up to 80 percent of these items appear on the Moscow airwaves transformed out of all recognition. Video sequences include archive shots which are six weeks old. Through the use of montage and substitutions of text, subjects acquire a completely different, frequently opposite, thrust and sound, which can stir up public opinion. At the will of editors in the capital, not much remains of the original objectivity of the reports. This is typical of virtually all of the Moscow television channels. Is there any need for proof of how such actions damage the stabilization of the situation in the region and the setting up of the negotiating process?

The second category of journalists consists of amateurs from the hot spots, outsiders who have absolutely no knowledge of the situation, who do not know how to behave in conditions of war, and who do not know Grozny from, say, Gudermes, or Argun from Shali. They do not even know the military identification marks. The military and press center staffers find it frankly difficult to deal with this category of journalist.

The third, most dangerous category, is made up of those who have turned the Chechen conflict and everything connected with it into a means of personal profit. They are contemptuously known as "travel agents."

These people get into contact with correspondents from the far abroad who, as a rule, do not speak Russian. For a certain fee they conclude contracts with them to accompany them to the armed conflict zone. Naturally the terms of these contracts are kept a closely guarded secret, and they can only be guessed at.

Naturally, these "tour leaders" operate without the press center's knowledge, and avoid accreditation. And it never occurs to their wards that an entire service exists which can, completely free of charge and at a high standard, ensure their security and provide the necessary means of transport to carry out the task, organize food for them, a place to stay, and so on.

All kinds of misunderstandings occur with such "guides." Not long ago the Committee for the Protection of Glasnost raised a fuss about the disappearance in

Chechnya of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent Vishnevskiy and an American journalist accompanying him. It turned out that the journalists, having avoided the press center, got through to Grozny and were calmly working there. And Mr. Vishnevskiy forgot to inform his own newspaper of his whereabouts.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA photographer Vladimir Sorokin belongs to the category of such "tour guides." And, as it has turned out, he participated in the act of provocation near Chervlennaya on his own initiative, without the knowledge of the editorial office. He provided a medical certificate to cover his absence from his main place of work.

...They say that every family has its black sheep. But if this family is the enormous detachment of journalists who form public opinion and represent, as it is customary to put it, the "fourth estate," the moral ugliness of people like my colleague Sorokin cannot be called anything except an insult to the professional dignity of Russian journalists. And decent people do not shake hands with their likes.

Chernomyrdin Warns Against Normalization Delay

LD2803165595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 28 (Interfax)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has warned against any delay in implementing the government program of normalization in Chechnya. He was speaking at a meeting on Tuesday by the state commission for postwar reconstruction in that republic.

The prime minister said the regional crisis was a trial test for government efficiency because of Russia's integrity being at stake.

He said the ministers concerned would be held personally responsible for implementing the program.

"It is necessary that the reconstruction process should be linked with concrete people and schedules to rule out any commonplace talk", he said.

And he added that all federal departments must open their representations in Chechnya while ministry officials should visit to get first-hand information about the situation there.

Chernomyrdin said the federal government have whatever resources are needed for postwar reconstruction of Chechnya and normalization in that republic.

Conciliation Conference Rule Out Talks With Dudayev

LD3103123595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—The Russian president's pardon to Chechens who took part in combat against the Russian troops would help normalisation in Chechnya, said a conference on national accord and conciliation in Chechnya.

The conference was held in the North Caucasian city of Pyatigorsk.

Organising committee chairman Schmidt Dzoblayev told a news conference in Moscow that the conference, which was attended by delegates of almost all Chechen teips (tribal clans), arrived at the conclusion that any talks could not be held with Dudayev.

The conference decided to reconvene in mid-April. Some of Chechen field commanders voiced a readiness to take part in it.

Dzoblayev quoted the conference as saying that the presidential amnesty might be granted to Chechens who took up to arms after the federal troops came to Chechnya but who had not been involved "in other criminal acts".

Asked what mechanisms he saw for the amnesty, Dzoblayev said delegates of the Pyatigorsk conference knew names of Chechnya's common-law criminals. According to Dzoblayev, the Chechen people is ready to extradite the criminals to law and order authorities.

Moscow Tightens Grip on Chechnya

AU3103125195 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By Jean Rafaelli]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Melchu-Khe, Russia, March 31 (AFP)—Moscow tightened its stranglehold on Chechnya on Friday [31 March] as a minister of the rebel republic reiterated that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev was ready to make peace.

Gudermes and Shali, the last two bastions of Chechen resistance, suffered repeated overnight Russian air and artillery attacks to flush out remaining separatist fighters.

A Chechen, who refused to be identified, said Ruslan Labazanov, a pro-Moscow opposition leader in Chechnya, had been seen in Melchu-Khe where he was preparing to take power in nearby Gudermes.

Moscow claimed on Thursday that Gudermes had fallen and it was conducting "flushing out operations." But Dudayev's spokesman Movladi Udugov denied it had fallen, adding 120 people had been killed by Russian forces.

Shali, meanwhile, was calm Friday after an ultimatum from Russian forces for Chechen fighters to lay down their arms ran out at 10.00 a.m. (0600 GMT). The town 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Grozny suffered repeated overnight shelling.

Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef, addressing an Islamic conference in the Sudanese capital Khartoum, said Dudayev continued to offer Moscow peace negotiations despite the offensive.

He said: "President Dudayev held out his hand from Grozny, when it still existed, to establish friendly, neighbourly relations with Russia.

"His hand is still extended today. Will President (Boris) Yeltsin answer this call for peace, or will he continue his aggression and add his name to the list of tsars and Bolsheviks who went before him?"

Yusef, who was repeatedly applauded at the conference, urged Arab and Moslem leaders to "assume responsibility in stopping the massacre of the Chechen people or at least to condemn the killing."

He called on Washington to mediate between the warring sides, blaming the United States for "giving Moscow the green light for the massacre." Washington has maintained that the conflict between Moscow and the rebel Moslem republic which declared independence three years ago is a domestic problem.

Thick smoke engulfed Gudermes on Friday, but it was impossible to find out if the town 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of Grozny, which had 60,000 inhabitants last week, was still sheltering Chechen fighters.

Adlan Sultayev, one of the last to flee Chechnya's second largest town early Thursday, said: "It's practically empty and on the point of falling." Shells exploded round Gudermes even as he spoke.

Chechen sources reported at least 30 people had died in Russian attacks on Wednesday and Thursday in areas in southern and eastern Chechnya which they did not yet control.

Women were among 15 killed when a bus and three cars were hit by artillery fire south of Gudermes while at least 16 died and more than 30 were wounded in Russian air attacks on refugees in mountains 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of Grozny.

Leaders of villages between Shali and Gudermes, meanwhile, reached settlements with Russian forces to save their homes in return for not letting in Chechen fighters, Makol Taramov, of Kurchaloy village, told AFP.

Village elders in mountainous areas southeast of Shali also planned to make deals with Russian authorities, said Said Ahmed Adyzov of the Elders' Council of Chechnya.

Thousands of people have died since Russian forces marched into Chechnya on December 11.

Fighting Breaks Out on Outskirts of Gudermes

LD3103165995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1631 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Shali (Chechen Republic), 31 Mar—Fighting has broken out on the outskirts of Gudermes. According to the command of the "Sever" [North] grouping of the federal forces, over the last 24 hours Chechen illegal armed formations have been attempting to drive the federal forces units off a height overlooking the town.

General Ivan Babichev, commander of the "Sever" group, explained that the militants had their bases there where they stored weapons, ammunition, food and medicines.

As a result of these combat clashes there are dead and wounded. According to preliminary information, three paratroopers were killed. There have been no reports about losses on the Chechen side.

Further on Capture of Shali

LD3103175395 Moscow *ITAR-TASS* in English 1706 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Chechnya March 31 TASS—Two regiments of a special task interior division, backed by units of Russia's 19th Division, entered Shali without fighting at 15.30, Moscow time, on Friday [31 March].

Federal units are combing the town, which they are to leave before night according to an agreement with local elders. By night, troops will take positions around Shali, leaving the town under control of local police and administration.

Lieut.Gen. Anatoliy Antonov, deputy commander of interior troops, praised good cooperation between the army and interior troops in the Shali operation. "Army units occupied all dominating heights and suppressed the resistance of the enemy", the general told TASS.

Antonov said that thanks to negotiations with local elders and clergy, it was possible to prevent casualties among soldiers and civilians.

Separatists left Shali without water and electric power. Municipal services are mainly ruined. Officials in the local administration told TASS that it is necessary to help refugees return to the town to restore the municipal economy.

Number of Chechen Refugees Reaches 305,872

LD3103194795 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English 1550 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 31 (Interfax)—Russia's regional migration services have registered a total of 305,872 refugees who fled Chechnya since the outbreak of fighting there last December, the Federal Migration Service (FMS) announced on Friday [31 March].

According to FMS, Dagestan and Ingushetia gave shelter to 68,000 and 42,000 refugees each. Over 35,000 refugees were registered in Stavropol territory, 8,000 in North Ossetia, 7,000 in Kabardino-Balkaria, 4,000 in Krasnodar territory and about 1,000 in Karachayevo-Cherkessia. More than 42,000 found shelter in Chechnya itself.

UNHCR Opens Nazran Mission To Help Refugees

LD3103201195 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English 1550 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, Mar 31 (Interfax)—A mission of the UN Commissioner for Refugees has been opened in Nazran.

A representative of the UN Commissioner for Refugees, Juan Hamunategue, told Interfax that the main purpose of this mission was to help Chechen refugees and North Ossetian displaced persons and supply them with food, medicine and temporary shelter.

Ingush President Ruslan Aushev took part in the opening ceremony. He told the UN commissioner's representative that the Ingush leaders would provide the mission with all possible assistance.

Over 100 Militant Shelters Found in 1994

LD3103212195 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English 1843 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 31 (Interfax)—The Federal Counterintelligence Service (Russian acronym FSK) revealed over 100 militant shelters and several warehouses with arms, ammunitions and food for a long-term partisan war against federal troops.

Commenting on last year's achievements, the FSK Public Relations Center said the service had obtained much information about planned enemy ambushes, mine fields and routes and used it through the military command. The FSK also collected information on foreign mercenary involvement in the conflict, mercenaries were said to mostly be from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Caucasus and the Baltic states.

An FSK press release also stipulated that it had discovered over 200 recruit officers, including 80 foreigners, and over 1,000 mercenaries, including 31 brought to trial.

Abkhaz Battalion in Chechnya 'Completely Destroyed'

LD0104185495 Tbilisi *SAKINFORM* in Russian 1346 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from Grozny, Russian federal troops have completely destroyed the Abkhaz battalion fighting on the side of President Dzhokhar Dudayev. It took place near the town of Gudermes.

Yegorov Foresees No Guerrilla War in Chechnya

LD0104103995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bondarenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rostov-on-Don April 1 TASS—There will be no guerrilla war in Chechnya, said Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies Nikolay Yegorov.

Today Yegorov spoke to a meeting of the Rostov region's district and city administrators. Chechnya is not subject to international law and therefore has no international support, Yegorov said.

Dudayev's units have no scope for manoeuvres in Chechnya's small territory, and they will not be able to remain long entrenched in mountains as they need bases, food supplies, money and drugs, Yegorov said.

Most importantly, the government official continued, the Russian federal troops are fighting the 15,000 Dudayev troops, not the Chechen people. Capture of major Chechen strongholds will allow the federal troops to stop combat soon, Yegorov said.

Yegorov informed the meeting that the 58th Army is being formed to be deployed in Chechnya, North Ossetia and Daghestan after the hostilities come to a halt.

Chechens Attempt To Retake Heights Around Gudermes

LD0104103595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1003 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Apr—Developing its success, the combined group of federal forces in Chechnya "is continuing to take effective action to frustrate attempts by the illegal armed formations to retake the strategically important heights around the town of Gudermes," the Russian Government press service announced today.

It also announced that "the detachments of fighters in the inhabited localities of Belorechye, Serzhen-Yurt, and Chechen-Aul have been totally defeated. Interior troops and Interior Ministry bodies are continuing with their active measures to disarm illegal armed formations. Humanitarian aid is being distributed to the people of Groznyy."

Yegorov Gives Conflict Casualty Figures

LD0104123895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The casualty figures for Russian troops in Chechnya are 1,436 killed and over 4,500 wounded. This was stated today by Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov. Eighty-one are being held in

Chechen captivity and a further 200 are missing. Yegorov puts the losses of Dudayev's formations at over 7,000.

FSK Operative Killed; Dudayev Snipers Active

LD0104135095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1217 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Kharchenko, Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, 1 Apr—Viktor Pakhomov, a member of staff of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] directorate for Khabarovsk kray, has been killed by a grenade explosion in Nadterechnyy rayon of the Chechen Republic. ITAR-TASS learned today that an unidentified man threw a grenade at a car with several employees of the FSK near the village of Naurskaya. It broke the windscreen and exploded inside the car. Three counterintelligence men were wounded, apart from Pakhomov. He was the third member of the FSK to be killed in Chechnya since the beginning of the conflict.

It has been revealed by military sources that Dudayev's snipers have been increasingly active in Groznyy in the last few days. The situation in the region of Gudermes remain complicated. Armed militants are trying to seize a height in the Terek range [Terskiy khrebet] south of Gudermes. The situation in Shali which was taken under control by the federal troops on Friday remains calm.

'Fresh' OMON Troops To Be Sent To Chechnya 'Shortly'

LD0104162695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kharchenko and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok April 1 TASS—Moscow will send fresh OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] troops to Chechnya shortly to replace their colleagues who are returning home on Saturday [1 April].

Moscow OMON Deputy Commander Major Vladimir Komarov, who led the returning OMON units in Chechnya, told ITAR-TASS that his men had been engaged in operative and search operations in Groznyy, Chernorechye and Argun.

He said his troops has sustained no losses, only two of his men were wounded. Komarov tends to explain this by the fact that only well-trained and experienced OMON troops are sent to the conflict zone.

Chechen Government Launches New Information Agency

LD0104162495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy April 1 (TASS)—The information agency VAINAKH PRESS set up by the Chechen National Revival government started operation on Saturday [1 April].

"The republican information agency plans to provide first-hand news. We will first of all tell our listeners about progress achieved in the difficult process of revival of peaceful life in Chechnya," Chechen government spokesman Said Bitsoyev told ITAR-TASS.

Considering the current problems, VAINAKH PRESS will distribute information through its Moscow bureau.

Today's news include the formation of local bodies of power in towns liberated from Chechen militants, restoration of the fuel and energy complex of the republic and other topics.

Dudayev Abolishes State Security Department

LD0304161295 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1354 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev issued a decree abolishing Chechnya's State Security Department. The POSTFAKTUM agency reported this today at the press service of Russia's Internal Troops. A special department is being organized to replace it. It was also reported by the press service that, following the fall of Argun, arguments have intensified among Dudayev's closest comrades-in-arms, who blame each other for the latest military defeats. Meanwhile Chechnya's mufti Arasanukayev, in an address to residents of the republic, called on the fighters to lay down their arms and stop the bloodshed.

Chechen Overnight Operation in Grozny Denied

LD0104212095 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview on Saturday [1 April] to an INTERFAX correspondent, the command post of a group of internal troops of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry in Chechnya refuted the statement that a group of Dudayev's armed militants had carried out a military operation in Grozny on the night of 1 April. Dudayev's representative Movladiy Udugov had earlier said in a telephone interview to INTERFAX that a special subunit of Chechens had destroyed two units of armored equipment on Friday night in the Zavodskoy district of Grozny.

Meanwhile, a representative of the internal troops of the Internal Affairs Ministry stressed that during the past 24 hours only one incident of shooting was registered in the Chechen capital. According to him, in the Staropromyslovyy district of the city a shot was fired at night at a checkpoint of one of the Russian units from a passing car. As a result one soldier of the federal troops was wounded.

Dudayev Militants 'Posing as Refugees' Reach Grozny

LD0204094395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 2 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia, April 2 TASS—Posts of Interior Ministry troops in Grozny were repeatedly fired upon by Dudayev militants who penetrate the capital of Chechnya posing as refugees, a spokesman for the press service of the Federal Counter-intelligence Service (FSK) in Mozdok, told ITAR-TASS on Sunday [2 April]. At the same time the situation in Grozny is coming back to normal with every passing day, the spokesman said.

In ITAR-TASS interviews, FSK members did not rule it out that Dudayev supporters were assigned a task of penetrating new power bodies which are being formed in Chechnya.

When abandoning Grozny and other populated areas in the Chechen republic, militants left behind arms and ammunition caches for sabotage terrorist acts.

During operations carried out by FSK personnel in Yubileynoye and Novoterskoye, 22 firearms were confiscated from the local population. A covert observation post was discovered and eliminated in a militant's apartment at Yubileynoe. Two powerful stationary spyglasses and three R-107 radiostations were found. A well equipped radio centre was captured at Ulyanovskoye.

Federal Forces Deny Dudayev Claims on Fighting

LD0204141795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, April 1 (Interfax)—The command of the Russian Interior Ministry's troops in Chechnya denied in an interview with Interfax on Saturday [1 April] information that a group of armed Chechen militants had launched an operation in Grozny on Friday at night.

Earlier, Dudayev's representative Movladi Udugov told Interfax on the phone that a special unit led by former Chechen prosecutor general Usman Imayev had eliminated two armored vehicles in the Zavodskoy District of Grozny on Friday at night.

An official of the command of the Russian Interior Ministry's troops said only one incident involving shooting had been registered in Grozny on Friday. He said somebody in a car passing by the patrol post of a Russian unit in the Staropromyslovskiy District had opened fire wounding a serviceman of the federal troops.

Udugov said referring to the Dudayev formations' headquarters that Chechen fighters were controlling some districts of Shali and Gudermes.

However, according to reports of the joint command of the federal troops in Chechnya, Russian troops completely freed Shali and Gudermes (respectively, on Thursday and Friday).

Udugov said Russian troops had launched missile-bomb attacks on Gudermes, Shali and several populated centers, including the Shatoy and Vvedenskiy districts, on

Friday at night and on Saturday in the morning. He said the attacks resulted in casualties.

The command of the Russian troops in Chechnya denied this information saying, "the federal troops did not bomb Gudermes and Shali either when taking control over them or yesterday."

'Numerous Deaths' Reported in Air Raids

LD0204164095 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has already been reported that there was fighting on Saturday [1 April] around Gudermes in Chechnya. According to information from the Russian Government press service, federal troops repulsed attempts by Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters to seize strategic heights near the town. As for the situation in the conflict zone today, official Russian sources have yet to make a report. We only have the information given to us by Movladi Udugov, the head of Chechnya's information service.

[Begin Udugov recording] Russian aviation carried out bomb and rocket strikes against built-up areas in Shatoyskiy, Vedenskiy, and Nozhay-Yurtovskiy Rayons all through last night and yesterday. There are numerous deaths. Fierce fighting resumed early this morning on the southwestern outskirts of the town of Shali and on the territory of the Shali tank regiment. [end recording]

Press Service: No Serious Changes in Chechnya

LD0204185795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1845 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 2 (TASS) — "According to reports from the mobile information center, the military and political situation in the Chechen republic has not undergone serious changes," the press service of the Russian government said on Sunday [2 April].

"Over the past 24 hours, the federal troops carried out their tasks in the designated areas. Interior ministry troops continued operative and search operations to discover and liquidate groups of militants near the town of shali, and helped with the work of the commandant's offices.

"Having sustained a defeat in the towns of Gudermes and Shali, illegal armed bands are retreating in separate groups in the southern and eastern directions, where they are setting up bases for partisan warfare against federal troops in the spring and summer.

"Disagreements are growing among the members of illegal armed groups over the expediency of further armed resistance to the federal armed forces and there have been proposals to lay down arms. There has been an increasingly growing number of cases of desertion among militants in the vedeno district.

"In the village of Starye Atagi, a self-defence unit composed of local residents forced militants out of the village."

Chechens Claim Russians Bombed Towns 2 Apr

LD0304081195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv in Russian 0400 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Movladi Udugov, minister responsible for the [Chechen] press, told our radio station that the fighting throughout yesterday took place mainly on the outskirts of the town of Shali. According to his information, Russian aircraft bombed populated locations in three areas of southern Chechnya. There are numerous casualties among the civilians.

Movladi Udugov reported that during the last two days of fighting the Russian Army has lost more than 40 pieces of armored equipment.

However, the Russian Government's press service reports that the situation in Chechnya over the last 24 hours has not changed substantially. Internal forces troops searched for and destroyed groups of armed fighters around the town of Shali. On the whole, the Russian military states, the Chechens are withdrawing to the south and east and are preparing bases for guerrilla operations.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian Supreme Soviet, intends to head for Chechnya. He believes his main task is to try to stop the bloodshed, the murder of an entire people. Khasbulatov is convinced that there are no bandit formations in Chechnya, that an entire people is fighting.

Yesterday press chief Movladi Udugov categorically denied the claim of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service that the Chechens are involved in the disappearance of two journalists from the newspaper NEVSKIYE VREMYA. [passage omitted]

Government To Allocate R4.2 Trillion To Chechen Economy

LD0304121095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 3 (Interfax)—Some 4.2 trillion rubles [R] will be allocated from the Russian federal budget in 1995 to restore the Chechen economy and social sphere. Government sources told Interfax today that this amount is fixed by a recently-approved federal program.

All in all, the program provides for 5,364 billion rubles in spending on Chechnya in 1995. Before the end of this year the output of Grozny oil-processing plants is expected to reach 2.5-3 million tonnes, which will require 153 billion rubles in allocations. Another 187 billion rubles will be allocated for restored oil extraction.

A total of 580.2 billions will be allocated for the construction of power transmission lines and restoration of electric power plants. Some 764.4 billions will be allocated for restoration of energy facilities.

Railroad repair is expected to cost 343.2 billion rubles in 1995 and some 100 billions will be used to restore vital agricultural production. Financing is to be carried out through the Menatep bank.

Economic Issues

\$500 Million IBRD Loan for Oil Industry

MM3003145395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under "In the Corridors of Power" rubric and general headline: "Agreements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has adopted a decree ratifying the Loan Agreement (Second Refinancing Loan for the Russian Oil Industry) between the Russian Federation and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) which is worth \$500 million and was signed in Washington 27 September 1994. It is established that the Second Refinancing Loan for the Russian Oil Industry will be repaid from profits of the joint-stock companies Megionneftegaz, Tomskneft, and Yuganskneftegaz obtained from the sale of oil. The Russian Finance Ministry has been instructed to inform the IBRD when the Russian side has fulfilled all the terms enabling the agreement to be implemented.

Latest Reshuffle in Central Bank Reported

MK3003080095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Finance Desk: "Changes in Russian Central Bank Leadership. Aleksandr Khandruyev Becomes Central Bank First Deputy Chairman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reshuffle in Russia's Central Bank kicked off by the appointment of Andrey Kozlov as deputy bank chairman continues. Appointed the other day were a new first deputy to the Central Bank head, a deputy chairman, and director of the banking oversight department.

The PRAYM news agency reports that, in accordance with a Central Bank board of directors decision of 27 March, Central Bank deputy chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev has been appointed first deputy chairman of the bank. The board of directors also appointed as a Central Bank deputy chairman Tatyana Artemova, who before this worked for a commercial bank. Olga Prokofyeva has been appointed director of the banking oversight department to replace Aleksandr Rychenkov in this position.

To KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, Aleksandr Khandruyev's appointment as Central Bank first deputy

chairman is evidence of his stronger influence among the bank's leadership. The strengthening of Khandruyev's positions has been proceeding over the past few months. In particular, according to a source in the bank, Khandruyev "inherited" a number of important departments Dmitriy Tulin was in charge of before. Among them is one of the key offices—the foreign operations department, which deals with matters of hard currency regulation and methods of determining hard currency rates. Moreover, rumors circulating early this year had it that unless the Duma approves Tatyana Paramonova for the position of Central Bank chairman, Aleksandr Khandruyev would be proposed for the position. The new appointment indeed confirms this guess in a sense.

At the same time, Aleksandr Khandruyev's new appointment may signal a further weakening of positions of the other first deputy chairman, Arnold Voylukov. Rumors of his possible resignation have long been circulating. Some Central Bank critics (in particular, in the president's staff) blame Voylukov for the "excesses" in the latest exchange of ruble notes in summer 1993. A Central Bank source, however, thinks Voylukov's dismissal would be a loss for the bank because he is a specialist in the field of money emission.

One of the most important Central Bank departments—that of banking oversight—has a new chief. Aleksandr Rychenkov, a former staffer of Moscow Narodnyy Bank in London, has held the post of department head since last summer. According to a Central Bank employee, when offering the job to Rychenkov, Viktor Gerashchenko perhaps planned to "promote" him to become a deputy chairman. However, the sudden dismissal of Gerashchenko himself in October 1994 interfered with this plan. According to the source, Rychenkov's indefinite status had a negative impact on the operation of the department, which remained passive during the bank's crisis. Olga Prokofyeva, new head of the banking oversight department, is in fact a good old girl, because she in fact was acting head of the department.

Finally, the appearance of an "outsider"—Tatyana Artemova—in the leadership of the bank is noteworthy. Nothing like this has happened since the Gerashchenko team replaced the Matyukhin team in 1992.

Real Incomes Drop Four Percent

MM3103123295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "State of Our Incomes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The population's monetary incomes in January-February were 208-percent up on the same period last year and stood at around 98 trillion rubles [R]. But real incomes excluding compulsory payments and adjusted against the consumer prices index fell by approximately 4 percent. One-third of Russians have incomes below the subsistence minimum—R203,000 a month. This was reported by the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics in material distributed at the Federation Council.

International Affairs**Kuchma, Gore Discuss Cooperation, NPT Issues***LD3103132195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 31 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had a telephone conversation with U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore. They exchanged opinion on Ukrainian-American cooperation.

The U.S. side confirmed President Bill Clinton's intention to pay a visit to Ukraine on May 11, 1995. The hope was expressed that the visit may become a milestone in the development of partnership of the two countries. It was also noted that the United States is interested in commercial launchings of Earth's artificial satellites jointly with Ukraine.

Kuchma told Gore about Ukraine's unchanged stand regarding the prolongation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty which was gratefully accepted by the U.S. side.

Gore deplored the fact the Ukrainian parliament had not yet endorsed the 1995 budget. Still he expressed the hope that the postponement of the debate on this matter by the Ukrainian parliament will not affect the granting of a standby credit by the International Monetary Fund to Ukraine.

Kuchma, Perry Discuss Military Cooperation*LD3103160695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1508 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 31 Mar—"Considerable movement has been made by Ukraine and the USA in the area of military cooperation," U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, who is in Kiev on a two-day official visit, believes. He said this at a meeting held today with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

The issues of bilateral regional security, the rational use of resources allocated in accordance with the Nunn-Lugar program, the conversion of the Ukrainian defense industry, and nuclear disarmament were discussed during the talks. Considerable attention was devoted to carrying out NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

At the same time, the Ukrainian president confirmed that Ukraine will play "an active role in implementing this program." "This is one way of advancing toward a future peaceful Europe," he stressed.

The U.S. defense secretary told the Ukrainian head of state that the USA intended to continue helping and supporting Ukraine. Among other things, he said that

over 300 containers of medical equipment will be sent to Ukraine from the USA in the near future.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma expressed his hope that the further development of cooperation between the two countries will be discussed in detail during U.S. President Bill Clinton's upcoming official visit to Kiev.

Shmarov Claims Progress on Disarmament*LD3103165095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Mar 31 (INTERFAX - UKRAINE)—Talks began in Kiev Friday [31 March] between Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov, a deputy premier, and his U.S. counterpart William Perry.

In his opening speech, Shmarov noted that since his last meeting with Perry "a lot has been done to implement the agreements on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament."

He stressed much progress had been made toward this end and voiced confidence that the U.S. defense secretary would be able now to see that for himself.

The defence chiefs plan to inspect a division of the 43rd Missile Army, based at Pervomaysk (Nikolayev region).

'Common Stance' on Nonproliferation*LD0104084695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev April 1—U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry during his two-day official visit to Kiev met Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

Udovenko and Perry discussed a wide range of issues of bilateral interest.

Perry said Ukraine's clear stance on nuclear disarmament provided a reliable basis for American-Ukrainian cooperation in security and socio-economic areas.

The sides also discussed a future visit of President Clinton to Ukraine, the current status and prospects of the two countries' cooperation in security, and the "Partnership for Peace" programme as a device to reduce the nuclear threat.

Another subject was the preparation for a conference on nuclear non-proliferation which is due to be soon held in New York.

Udovenko told reporters after the meeting that Ukraine and the U.S. had a common stance on non-proliferation issues, which is of special importance in the light of Ukraine's giving up its nuclear weapons.

Perry said American-Ukrainian relations in various areas had substantially improved since his last visit to Ukraine in March 1994.

Perry said he would see an example of the better cooperation during his trip to a missile base in Pervomaysk, where SS-18 missiles are scrapped in a U.S.-assisted programme.

U.S. Aid To Boost Conversion Process

LD3103201095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1850
GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 31 TASS—The United States will issue additional 20 million dollars to Ukraine to boost the dismantling of SS-19 strategic missiles, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry told Ukrainian Speaker Oleksandr Moroz here today.

What is more, the Americans will participate in the construction of housing for Ukrainian rocket troopers transferred to the reserve. The first stone in the construction will be laid on Saturday during Perry's trip to Pervomaysk where a rocket division is stationed. In his words, the United States is planning increased financing of destruction of Ukrainian nuclear arms and assistance to Ukraine in fulfilment of the Partnership for Peace program. Perry said they understand the grave position of Ukraine and plan to expand bilateral cooperation in a number of other spheres, including conventional arms security, peace-making and economic programs. He does not exclude a possibility of Ukrainian participation in international space program.

In the words of the Ukrainian parliament speaker, "Ukrainian access to space launches would boost the conversion process." He added that the republic has necessary facilities to develop the space branch and expressed the hope the United States will support Ukraine in the striving to become a developed space nation.

Perry told Ukrainian parliament deputies that the U.S. will cover part of the spending on joint military exercises in the Carpathian Military District scheduled for May and the military exercises to be held within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program this year.

NATO's Expansion to East Viewed

LD0204133295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233
GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 2 (Interfax)—The U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said he believed that NATO's expansion to the East meant "enlarging the zone of security and stability in Europe."

Perry told a news conference on the results of his visit to Ukraine in Kiev on April 1 that, however, the U.S. would not like new borders appearing in Europe and thus would develop the Partnership for Peace program. Perry stressed that Ukraine was one of the "strongest" participants in the NATO program.

When asked about his opinion on the treaty on the CIS collective security, Perry said he believed that the CIS countries should primarily focus on the economic sphere because of their hard economic situation.

Perry welcomed the Ukrainian position supporting the U.S. efforts for extending the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons for an indefinite term.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov told the same news conference that the U.S. and Ukraine had discussed bilateral military cooperation during the visit of Perry to Kiev. Shmarov confirmed that the Ukrainian-U.S. first joint military exercise would take place in West Ukraine in May.

The U.S. and Ukraine signed an agreement on Washington granting to Kiev another \$20 million for nuclear disarmament during the visit of Perry to Kiev.

The U.S. OPIC (Private Investments Corporation) signed an agreement with the Allient Techsystems firm on giving to it guarantees for investing into Ukraine \$16 million in Kiev on April 1. The Ukrainian-U.S. Allient-Kiev joint venture deals with recycling conventional ammunition.

Perry was present at discharging an SS-18 strategic missile in Pervomaysk (the Nikolayev Region).

The U.S. defense secretary left for Moscow on April 1 in the evening.

Shmarov: Perry's Visit 'Dynamic, Fruitful'

LD0204101695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in
Ukrainian 0800 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine works consistently for the cause of disarmament and peace. Being present at the process of taking an SS-19 strategic nuclear missile off combat duty at the Pervomaysk Division, I again satisfied myself that Ukraine is a serious partner that does not use words lightly. U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, who paid a two-day official visit to Ukraine, said this at a news conference in Kiev.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov also took part in the news conference.

William Perry pointed out, in particular, that the United States intends to render aid to Ukraine in the implementation of the Partnership for Peace program, and also to expand cooperation in a number of other spheres. Ukraine's participation in international space programs is not ruled out. The United States will partially cover the expenses connected with joint Ukrainian-American exercises in the Precarpathian Military District due to be held in May 1995, and also exercises within the Partnership for Peace program scheduled for this year.

In his turn, Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov pointed out that William Perry's visit was dynamic and fruitful. We managed to fully coordinate a

plan of military cooperation for this year, Valeriy Shmarov said. According to him, this is a substantial document, which envisages over 50 undertakings.

Defense Minister Shmarov Starts Visit to China

LD0204101495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0922 GMT 2 Apr 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Olga Tanasiychuk for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing April 2 TASS—Ukrainian government delegation led by Defence Minister Valeriy Shmarov started an official visit to China on Sunday [2 April].

The schedule of the visit envisages meetings with Chinese defence minister and other officials, and participation in the work of intergovernmental Ukrainian-Chinese committee.

The visit will last till April 7.

Kiev Ready To Cooperate With OSCE in Crimea

LD0204121095 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's ambassador to Austria, head of the Ukrainian delegation at the talks within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation [OSCE] in Europe, Mykola Makarevych, spoke at the sitting of the OSCE ruling council [as heard] in Prague. In his speech Mykola Makarevych, in particular, pointed out the aspect in a report by the OSCE chairman-in-office, Hungary's Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs, that dealt with situations caused by manifestations of separatism in some member-states of OSCE. Mykola Makarevych said the Ukrainian delegation was informing the OSCE permanent council [as heard] of the fact that the state bodies of Ukraine were taking measures to ensure territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine's borders, prevent manifestations of separatism, establish constitutional order, and protect the rights and freedoms of Ukraine's citizens on the entire territory of the state.

Ukraine's loyalty to political, constitutional methods of solving its domestic problems enjoys vast support of the world community. Ambassador Mykola Makarevych declared Ukraine's readiness to further cooperate with OSCE along the lines of consolidating stability in Crimea on the basis of the OSCE principles and within the framework of Ukraine's Constitution.

Ukraine Cuts Off Russian Radio, TV Broadcasts

LD0104105795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0952 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Apr—The Ukrainian government has played a 1 April trick on the people of

Crimea. ITAR-TASS has been told that, at 0000 today, six "Radio Rossii" transmitters were switched off and the relaying of Russian TV was stopped. This was said to have been done because of Moscow's debts (about 200 million rubles).

National Affairs

Tsekov Warns Against Reinstating Franchuk

LD3103133495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine suggestion that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma should take over the Crimean government to erect a rigid vertical structure of executive power in Crimea is "the result of a squabble for control over Crimean property," Crimean Parliament Speaker Serhiy Tsekov told a working meeting on 31 March.

"The Ukrainian president's possible move will only contribute to fierce confrontation between Ukraine's legislative and executive branches of power," he added.

The Crimean speaker insisted that the dismissal by his parliament of Anatoliy Franchuk and Andriy Senchenko and the appointment of Anatoliy Drobotov as Crimea's prime minister "is legally impeccable." He warned: "Any attempt by the leadership of executive authorities in Ukraine to reinstate Anatoliy Franchuk will be an outright violation of the law."

Serhiy Tsekov described the meeting between chairmen of Crimea's local councils and the president of Ukraine as "seeking to postpone the elections to the autonomy's local councils and retain power."

Kuchma, Overruling Crimean Parliament, Confirms Franchuk

LD0104163495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 1 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has subordinated the Crimean government to the Ukrainian Cabinet pending the adoption of a new Crimean constitution, and reinstated the former Crimean prime minister in his post.

In accordance with Kuchma's decree on certain aspects of relations between the central executive authorities and the executive bodies of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which was received by INTERFAX on Saturday, the Crimean prime minister shall be appointed by the Ukrainian president following the presentation of his candidacy by the chairman of the Crimean parliament. The candidacies of the other members of the Crimean government shall be proposed by the Crimean prime minister and endorsed by the Ukrainian Cabinet.

Pending the adoption of a new Crimean constitution, "the Crimean government which worked until March 17" and which is considered legitimate by the Ukrainian parliament, shall be subordinated directly to the Ukrainian Cabinet, says the decree.

Thus, the Ukrainian president has confirmed the powers of Anatoliy Franchuk as the Crimean prime minister, even though the Crimean parliament had passed a vote of no-confidence in him a few days ago, appointing Anatoly Drobotov to this post.

The chairmen of the district, city and rural councils of Crimea and their executive committees shall be accountable to the Crimean government and, through it, to the president and government of Ukraine, says the decree.

The Ukrainian Cabinet has been instructed to ensure the implementation of measures to stabilize the socioeconomic situation in Crimea.

Edict Subordinating Crimean Cabinet to Kiev

LD0104165995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An edict by the president of Ukraine on certain issues of relations between the central bodies of the state executive power and the executive power bodies of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

In connection with the abrogation of the Constitution and certain laws of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by the Supreme Council of Ukraine and with the aim of ensuring control of all spheres of social life in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea for the period until a new constitution is adopted, and also taking into account the proposal by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the appeal by chairmen of city and rayon councils of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and their executive committees, proceeding from items 1, 4, and 7/1 of Article 114/5 of the Constitution of Ukraine, I decree: To subordinate the government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in its composition as at 17 March 1995, which was recognized as valid by a Supreme Council resolution of 17 March 1995 on the procedure of enforcing the law of Ukraine on the abrogation of the Constitution and certain laws of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, directly to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for a period until a new constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is put into effect;

to establish that a prime minister of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is appointed by the president of Ukraine on the basis of a written representation by the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The other members of the government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea are appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the basis of a written representation by the prime minister of the government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;

to establish that chairmen of rayon, city district, city, village, and town councils of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and their executive committees are accountable to and controllable by the government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and via it—to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the president of Ukraine, as far as the exercise of the powers vested in the state executive power in compliance with the Ukrainian president's edict No. 430 of 6 August 1994 on ensuring control over the state executive power structures in the regions is concerned;

to charge Valeriy Pavlovych Pustovoytenko, minister to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with the duty to coordinate the tackling of the socioeconomic issues connected with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;

the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is instructed to ensure the timely and full implementation of the measures aimed to stabilize the socioeconomic situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea that are envisaged by the Ukrainian president's edicts and instructions and decisions by the government of Ukraine;

Ukraine's Ministry of the Press and Information and the State TV and Radio Broadcasting Committee of Ukraine are instructed to organize a comprehensive and impartial coverage in the media of the situation that has taken shape in Crimea and explanation of the measures taken by the Supreme Council of Ukraine, the president of Ukraine, and the Government of Ukraine to resolve the whole set of problems in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The edict comes into force since the day of its signing.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma.

Reaction to Kuchma's Edict on Crimea

LD0104172795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1553 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree on Saturday [1 April] which virtually puts the Crimean Government under his control.

Some observers consider the move as a step to sharply limit the Crimea's autonomy.

The UKRINFORM news agency said in a report earlier today that "the decree, in connection with the abolition by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine of the Constitution and some laws of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea and pending the adoption of a new constitution of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea, puts the Government of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea that existed as of March 17, 1995 under the direct control of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine."

The decree says that the Crimean prime minister is appointed by the president of Ukraine "upon the presentation by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the

Autonomous Republic of the Crimea." Other members of the government will be appointed by the Crimean prime minister and will have to be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Kuchma signed his decree just a day after Crimean lawmakers sent him a letter saying that "the decision by the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea on a vote of no-confidence and removal of Crimean Prime Minister Franchuk, and its consent to the removal of Crimean Vice-Prime Minister Senchenko does not contradict the legal acts adopted by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine on March 17, 1995 and is in line with the Constitution of Ukraine. This has also been borne out by the results of the discussion of the removal of the above people at a plenary session of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine on March 24, 1995."

The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea asked the Ukrainian president "not to adopt any decisions with regard to the Government of the Crimea without thorough consideration of all circumstances of the current events in the Crimea and their possible discussion by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine."

Crimean Politicians Protest Kuchma's Move

LD0104174595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol April 1 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's decision to take the Crimean government under his control, thus removing it from under the control of the Crimean parliament, caused a negative reaction among Crimean politicians.

The Russian Party of the Crimea called for a referendum on an early termination of the present parliament, whose poorly thought-out decisions have put the republic on the verge of losing its statehood. The party also urged an end to the moratorium on the status of the Crimea.

"Let people decide for themselves whether or not the Crimea should be independent and join Russia or remain in Ukraine. We call on the world community to become the guardians of such a referendum," party leader Sergey Shuvainikov told ITAR-TASS on Saturday [1 April].

"Insisting on this we, at the same time, urge the residents of the Crimea not to give in to the provocations of those who call for confrontation and building barricades. Some forces in Ukraine cannot wait for this to happen in order to liquidate the republic completely," he said.

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Crimean Parliament Chairman Criticizes Kuchma Decree

LD0204132795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 2 (Interfax)—Chairman of Crimea's Supreme Soviet Sergey Tsekov called President Leonid Kuchma's decree on a prime minister of this autonomy as "the gravest violation" of Ukraine's legislation and Constitution and reported about possible convocation of an extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament.

In accordance with the decree signed by Kuchma on March 31, the Ukrainian president appoints Crimea's prime minister on presentation of the chairman of the Crimean parliament. Other members of the government of this republic within Ukraine are appointed by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on presentation of the Crimean prime minister.

At a press conference in Simferopol on Sunday Tsekov declared that "this decree brings the Republic of Crimea

to the level of a colony." "Crimea's Supreme Soviet will not agree to this," he underlined.

In his words, an extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament will possibly be convened on April 3. It will adopt an address to Ukraine's Supreme Soviet "to suspend the presidential decree dated March 31."

Tsekov also reported that the session "is likely" to address Russia, CIS states, the world community, the United Nations, and the OSCE "with a request to give a juridical assessment to Ukraine's actions from the point of view of violation of human rights and from the point of view of international-legal norms."

Tsekov indicated that the parliamentarians can also raise the issue on a referendum in Crimea, "on the status of the Republic of Crimea and on the attitude of Crimea's residents to the Constitution's cancelling and on other issues as well."

"If we want to know opinion of the Crimeans concerning these or those disputable issues, let's ask them," he said. At the same time he underlined that "undoubtedly, issues violating Ukraine's territorial integrity will not be put forward at the referendum."

Tsekov To Appeal to Supreme Council

LD0204142895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233
GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 1 (Interfax - Ukraine)—The Crimean parliament will not agree with the decree of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on subordinating the Crimean government directly to Kiev, Chairman of the Crimean Parliament Serhiy Tsekov told Interfax - Ukraine in an exclusive interview.

He said the Crimean parliament was going to apply to the Ukrainian parliament. Tsekov said the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet must assess activities of the person who must be the guarantor of the Ukrainian Constitution and legislation (meaning the Ukrainian president). If the guarantor fails to respect the Ukrainian Constitution and legislation somebody should finally assess his actions, Tsekov added.

Tsekov said the Ukrainian president was guided by the desire to defend his close relative rather than the interests of Ukraine.

The daughter of Leonid Kuchma is married to the son of Anatoliy Franchuk. Anatoliy Franchuk was dismissed as the Crimean Prime Minister by the Crimean parliament. However, Kuchma issued a decree confirming the powers of Franchuk as the Crimean Prime Minister. The decree was made known on April 1.

The Crimean parliament's presidium will meet on Monday to discuss the Ukrainian president's decree. Tsekov said the Crimean parliament was unlikely to call an emergency session on the issue.

Tsekov said the Crimean parliament would apply to the world community: the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. He said if the Crimean parliament received necessary guarantees it would decide on holding in Crimea a referendum on the status of the peninsula. He said the referendum was needed for learning the opinion of the Crimean people. He stressed that "the main principle of the international law, the territorial integrity of Ukraine, will not be violated by holding a referendum." He said Crimea was not going to leave Ukraine. Tsekov said the Crimean people just wanted that their interests as a part of the Ukrainian population be respected.

The Crimean parliament's member Vadim Mordashov said the Ukrainian president had made the status of Crimea lower than a region or even a town. He said that in a region or a town the executive committee had to account before the council which could control its activities. "We have been deprived of this right," he added.

Mordashov said he believed that Kuchma could try to do the same towards the Ukrainian parliament. "This is a threat to democracy," he said.

When asked about possible response of the Crimean parliament, Mordashov said, "We are peaceful people. We don't have weapons. The only thing that we can do is to apply to the world community."

A member of the Crimean parliament's presidium, leader of the Kurultai (Crimean Tatars) faction Refat Chubarov said the decision on re-subordinating the Crimean government to Kiev was a natural consequence of Crimea's "legal defiance towards Ukrainian legislation." Chubarov said this was a natural legal decision of the Ukrainian president aimed at maintaining control over the autonomy.

Chubarov said this was the first decision of Leonid Kuchma proving that he was ready to act as the guarantor of the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Meshkov Says Kuchma Decree 'Challenge' to Crimea

LD0204140395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233
GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, April 1 (Interfax)—The decree signed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on April 1 on depriving the Crimean parliament of the right to form the state and executive power bodies is "a gross and unprecedented violation of elementary democratic standards and generally-recognized human rights in Crimea," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said in a statement circulated on Saturday [1 April].

The Ukrainian authorities put under question the existence of the democratic power bodies in both Crimea and Ukraine, Meshkov said.

An official of the Crimean president's administration, Aleksandr Spakhov, told Interfax on Saturday that Meshkov considered the Ukrainian president's decree as "an open challenge to Crimea."

Crimean Deputies Try To Seize Senchenko's Office

LD3103150695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1411 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 31 Mar—A group of deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council today made an attempt to seize the office of Andriy Senchenko, deputy prime minister of the Crimean parliament, who, contrary to the decision on his resignation, continues to perform his duties.

Deputy Vladimir Zaskoko burst into the room and struck the deputy prime minister's secretary with the door. The deputies claimed they were acting on orders from Prime Minister Anatoliy Drobotov who authorized them to work there.

This was already the third attempt this week to push me out, Andriy Senchenko told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. It is surprising that the militia, entrusted with protecting the office, each time unimpededly allowed in a group of agitated legislators.

Union of Workers Calls For Toppling of President

LD3103213295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chernovtsy—A leaflet issued by the so-called "All-Ukrainian Union of Workers" today contains an appeal to the working people to hold an all-Ukrainian rally on 8 April under the slogan "Working class against president's predatory reforms."

The appeal openly calls for the presidential power in Ukraine to be toppled. In particular, it says: "It is only by our own vigorous action that we can put an end to the president's antipopular policy. To fight against slavery...[agency ellipses] We are calling for workers' councils to be set up at all enterprises, in rayons, cities, and oblasts."

Existence of Chemical Weapons Sites Denied

LD3103170395 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Suppositions as to the presence of chemical weapons or other environmentally hazardous military objects in Ukraine were voiced at a news conference held by the Green World association on 30 March. Oleh Lystopad, deputy chairman of the Green World antimilitary Commission, told the Novyny Television and Radio Agency that six chemical weapon storage sites were maintained in Ukraine during the

Soviet era. In reply to the commission's enquiry, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said no chemical weapons were found.

Green World officials insisted at the news conference that Ukraine has to ratify the international convention on chemical weapons.

On 30 March, The Defense Ministry press service refuted Green World reports of chemical weapons in the country. Ukraine never did and does not have chemical weapons on its territory, the ministry told the Novyny agency.

Radioactive Matter Containers Found in Cherkassy Oblast

LD1303214895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1515 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cherkassy Oblast—Three containers that, according to experts, may contain ionizing radiation sources, have been accidentally found on a plot of land attached to a house near the town of Kamenka. UNIAN was informed of this at the Information Center of the former State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety of Ukraine.

According to the Ukrainian state association "Radon," the level of radiation detected on the surface of the containers is 500 microrentgens per hour, which is approximately 10 times higher than the maximum admissible level of radiation set for the population.

The circumstances under which the containers found their way to the plot of land where they were found, their contents, and their owner are being ascertained.

Economic Issues

Talks With Canadian Team To Facilitate GATT Membership

WS0304100195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2237 GMT 2 Apr 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Oleh Paniuta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 1—A series of consultations with the Canadian Government which took place over the past week are designed to bring Ukraine closer to membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), according to Foreign Trade Ministry officials.

The talks, which concluded over the weekend, are also supposed to lay the groundwork for Canada's technical assistance program to Ukraine for the coming year. Canada, with its sizable Ukrainian community, has consistently been among the major aid donors to Ukraine since the country obtained independence.

Participants in the talks include Nancy Stiles, an authorized representative of the government of Canada for

coordination of technical assistance, Arthur Labrec, a counselor of the Embassy of Canada in Ukraine, Anthony Halliday, a Canadian international trade representative, Vera Hutsulyak, a chief specialist of the department of anti-dumping and protective measures of Ukraine's Ministry of National Income, and Peter Magnus, a representative of Smith and Lions law firm.

The parties agreed to retain Smith and Lions to aid in the examination of existing and future legislative acts of Ukraine with regards to their compliance with GATT and World Trade Organization requirements.

The talks reportedly centered around legal measures Ukraine must take to harmonize its foreign trade regime, including the application of unilateral import restrictions according to the regulations and principles of GATT and the problems surrounding the inclusion of GATT principles into national legislation.

Ukraine is under pressure to introduce measures to combat the "dumping" of its goods on world markets, particularly from the European and North American trading blocs.

"The participants to the consultations positively assessed the results of the meetings and considered them to be helpful in determining the major directions and volumes for the technical assistance of the Canadian government to Ukraine," according to a Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman.

Deputy Minister: Trade To Focus on CIS, Baltics
WS0304095895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0209 GMT 1 Apr 95

[*"Special to INTELNEWS"* by Viktor Zubaniuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, March 31—Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Ihor Podolyev said Ukraine's new trade policy places CIS countries and Baltic states as its top priority, at a Friday [31 March] briefing at the Foreign Trade Ministry.

"This is the direction in which we will work especially hard, and these markets we will use as a beachhead for a subsequent trade expansion to other countries and regions, such as China, Mongolia, Iran and others," said Podolyev. He also said that "the establishment of a free trade regime within the confines of the CIS will very soon become a reality."

The development of trade with European countries is viewed as "priority No. 2," said Podolyev. "In the following six years Ukraine will become an associated member of the European Community," he said. Ukraine has already attempted to enter the European market with its welding technologies, artificial diamonds and precious metals. Ukraine also plans to begin exporting rails, equipment for metallurgic plants and military goods to the Arab countries. Podolyev noted that Ukraine is about to sign a contract on exports of Ukrainian heavy

trucks KRAZ to the United Arab Emirates. Podolyev said Ukrainian trucks, despite their relatively low fuel efficiency, outperformed such trucks as Volvo and Mercedes under desert conditions.

Podolyev said Ukraine will join the World Trade Organization before the end of this year. Ukraine is expected to join the WTO six to eight months sooner than Russia, which may provide it with some advantage in terms of entering particular foreign markets before Russia.

According to Podolyev, Parliament will soon review a bill that would endow the president with the authority to regulate free economic zones through presidential decrees. The Foreign Trade Ministry says this would immediately allow dozens of "spot" free economic zones to pop up throughout Ukraine, especially in border regions. This would push massive foreign investments and technologies inflow to the country, said Podolyev.

The Ministry's trade concept has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and forwarded to Parliament for review and final approval, Podolyev said.

The concept foresees that a new foreign economic policy will be implemented in three phases. During the first phase, which starts in 1995 and ends in 1997, the volume of exports and foreign trade turnover should be raised. "Today, we have already observed improvements in Ukraine's foreign trade balance despite falling domestic production," said Podolyev. The first phase features restructuring of exports and imports and support for import-substitute domestic industries. The latter factor move is aimed at reducing "critical" imports by 20 percent within two years.

From 1997 to 2000, during the second stage, the foreign trade balance deficit is to be cut. The concept foresees cuts in the volume of raw materials and unfinished products exports, and an increase in exports of hi-tech and research-consuming products. In particular, Ukraine is planning to gradually reduce the share of oil and fuel imported from Russia to 25 percent of Ukraine's total oil and fuel consumption. New sources of oil, such as Iran and other Near East countries, are expected to become available when the Odessa oil terminal is constructed.

During the third period, development of Ukraine's foreign trade will be pursued on the basis of gradual elimination of government control over exports and imports, excluding the export of strategically important commodities and goods.

Industrialists: Kuchma Decree May Produce 'Paralysis'

WS0304104295 Kiev VYBIR in English 0755 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Report by Heorhiy Larin—from the "Ukrainian News" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Of the multitude of issues discussed at a regular sitting of the National Council for Social Partnership [NCSP] (March 23) the last on the agenda proved the hottest. It concerned the Ukrainian President's Decree (no. 227/95, March 16, 1995) On Measures to Normalize Payments Discipline in the National Economy of Ukraine. Of the three parties present at the NCSP—government, business and trade-union—the business one was, of course, the most interested in discussing it, because the issue had been placed on the agenda on its initiative.

Representatives of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Businessmen [UUIB], the country's largest alliance of directors of enterprises, at one time headed by the current president (after his retirement from the premier's post) lashed out at Leonid Kuchma with what can only be described as an unprecedented verbal attack. "This decree is aimed at the final disintegration of production"; "measures envisaged by this decree will lead to a paralysis in the Ukrainian financial system"; "this decree will inevitably result in a social explosion"—these are but a few of the emotional descriptions voiced at the sitting. The businessmen proposed, on behalf of the National Council, to adopt a message to the president urging him to suspend the decree.

But what triggered off such a reaction? As one of the most important steps aimed at settling the problem of payments this document provides for setting priorities in the payments by enterprises, agencies, and organizations with all forms of property, of taxes and other mandatory charges to the budget, and then in acceptance-free withdrawal payments covering the sum total of credit arrears, primarily on energy carriers. Under this decree, this sum can be withdrawn without acceptance from all the checking and fixed accounts available to enterprises, in both Ukrainian and foreign currency. The banks will be able to execute other remittance orders of such enterprises only after settling the priority accounts.

Although the purpose of this decree is formulated as "normalization of payments discipline, reducing the mutual arrears of entities of business activities and raising their responsibility for the observance of contractual obligations," directors of industrial enterprises strongly believe that its consequences will be precisely the opposite, because in many cases, after withdrawing tax and credit arrears from their accounts such enterprises will be left with only "minuses" there. The new decree further specifies that belated redemptions of arrears subject the enterprises at fault to a 2 percent fine (for electricity, and 3 percent for energy carriers) on the outstanding sum, imposed on each day of the faulty period—in other words, doubling the sum of the arrears in a month or a month and one half. "We'll all go broke," was the unanimous verdict of the UUIB representatives at the NCSP sitting. They pointed out that wages were included into those "other payments", and that they would have to be paid out of the empty purse, after the "priority" settlements.

Of course, wages were mentioned for the audience's sake. The theme was picked up by the representatives of the Trade Union [TU] Federation of Ukraine. They informed those present that, starting on March 20, when the decree had come into effect, messages had been pouring in from all regions of the country with information about negative responses on the part of local TU committees or directors of enterprises. They said in particular that the shipyard in Mykolaiv had gone on strike (after its director addressed the workers, saying that they would receive no pay because of the president's decree).

It should be noted, however, that the directors of enterprises had another reason for demanding the decree's countermand. Under this decree, the manager and the chief accountant of the enterprise at fault are fined, as part of the redemption of the damage sustained by this enterprise, to the tune of three times the salaries received by them over the past six months. Local executive authorities must thereby terminate contracts with the heads of government-run enterprises which have indebtedness under credits on their deposit, hard currency and other accounts in excess of 60 days—in other words, with the heads of enterprises which do not pay their debts, although they could have long done so. And so to many directors the decree is a personal threat.

Meanwhile, a lot has been said and written over the past several months about the severest of sanctions to be meted out to habitual defaulters. The theme of non-payments became especially topical after the Ukrainian state had to assume the Ukrhaz [Ukrainian Gas] liabilities on gas supplies from Russia's Gazprom. There was also tangible pressure from the coal miners who had considerably increased extraction but still had to wait for months to receive their pays. Therefore, the decree was anything but a surprise, although many directors of enterprises had apparently counted on it being shelved. Well, it wasn't...

The government party present at the NCSP sitting refrained from criticism, although one of them did say that the presidential decree was evidence that executive power in Ukraine was not actually vested in the Cabinet of Ministers, but in the President's Administration. Representatives of the Free Trade Unions, while not sharing the TU Federation's stand, voiced their indignation over the standing practice of executive authorities passing crucial decisions on matters directly concerning most citizens without agreeing them with the other two parties to "social partnership." The sitting ended with adopting a message of protest to the president, signed by the business and trade union sides of the NCSP.

The message did not pass unnoticed. According to Oleh Bondarchuk, chief consultant, Domestic Policy Department of the President's Administration, it is now being dealt with by Volodymyr Kuznetsov, head of the Administration's Economy Department. "The situation is being analyzed, and appropriate conclusions will certainly be

made," said Bondarchuk, "but it's too early to say what these conclusions will be all about." Anyway, it is hardly likely that any concessions will be made in the decree's provisos; the only other item on the agenda of the latest session of the cabinet, apart from preparations for the [World War II] Victory's 50th anniversary, was that of gas supply settlements with Russia and Turkmenistan....

Ministry Allocates Aid to Crimean Economy
*WS0304094195 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0830
GMT 3 Apr 95*

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev—On March 30 the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers decided to appropriate additional budgetary funds to support the Crimean economy. The Ministry of Finance was ordered to provide KBV [karbovantsi] 600 billion in order to ensure the procurement of fuel, foodstuff, and industrial equipment for Crimea, and another KBV 500 billion for the construction of a water supply facility by May 15. While working together with the Parliament on a draft state budget, the Finance Ministry will look for a way to increase funds earmarked for the repatriation of once deported nations,

as well as the acquisition of trolley buses for the Yalta-Simferopol route (which amounts to \$1 million.) The State Property Fund of Ukraine was assigned to complete the inventory of the state property in Crimea by May 1, and to establish a unified system of privatization agencies and a regional certificate auction center by May 15. The Cabinet of Ministers turned to the Parliament with a proposal to create a legal framework for a unified system of executive authorities with the Crimean Government subordinated to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Plans To Cut Income to State Pension Fund
*LD3103220395 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in
English 2100 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As UKRINFORM learned from usually reliable sources, a draft presidential enactment has reportedly been drawn up, which provides for the state budgetary revenues to be increased through cutting down incomings to the pension fund of Ukraine and the state insurance fund from 12 percent to 10 percent. If materialized, these reductions will be tantamount to cutting the social insurance budget by 6,000 billion or over 7,000 billion karbovantsi [sentence as heard].

Belarus**Security Council Discusses Defense Reforms**

*LD0204162395 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus
International Service in Belarusian 1800 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security Council of the republic has met, in which it considered certain aspects of the deep reform of the Armed Forces of Belarus and the general reform of the system of the state's national security, according to the newspaper ZVYAZDA. The members of the Security Council have deemed it inexpedient to unite the command of the air defense troops and the Air Force, which was intended to result in considerable improvement of their interaction in protection of the air space of Belarus. It was decided first to complete the reform of the Air Force and the air defense. At the same time the fate of the 103d Airborne Division and the 38th separate assault brigade was discussed. It was recognized that those units in their current form do not comply with the military doctrine of the Republic of Belarus that is being developed and need to be disbanded. Most probably, as more than once stated by the Minister of Defense Anatol Kastenka, a mobile grouping of forces, which will also include the reformed assault brigade, will be formed on the basis of the Vitebsk airborne division.

Lukashenka Signs Decree on Election Regulations

*LD3103205395 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 1600 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has signed a decree on ensuring equal opportunities for citizens during preparing for and holding the elections of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of Belarus. Oblast, rayon, town, settlement, and village executive committees have been instructed to prevent unsanctioned rallies and marches held to express public boycott of elections, as well as election canvassing in forms that violate the law of Belarus on the election of deputies to the Supreme Soviet. The president has ruled that executive committees jointly with district election commissions should define the procedure and conditions for election canvassing and meetings with voters. If canvassing incites social, national, or regional hatred, or involves calls for the usurping of power, forcible change of the constitutional regime, or the violation of integrity of the state, law enforcement bodies should be sent evidence in order to call those who are guilty to account.

The presidential decree also specifies that candidates and deputies who work for the state, at state enterprises or enterprises based on state property, in state enterprises, or in the mass media should suspend their duties for the period of their participation in the elections. The above defined persons must not involve their subordinates in election canvassing or use company transport for those purposes. Those who abuse their official position will be relieved of their posts and will be charged according to the established procedure.

Suspension of Investment Fund Activities Ordered

*WS0304093895 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0754
GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to information received, on March 31, the next day after the first national cheque auction took place, the heads of the specialised investment funds (SIF) that are engaged in accumulating inscribed privatisation cheques (IPC) were acquainted with an order by the President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka, dated from March 27, which suspends the activity of the investment funds. In the order the suspension was explained by the necessity to bring the activity of the SIFs to conformity with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus. On March 31 the offices of the Savings Bank received an instruction from the Ministry for States Property Control and Privatisation to freeze the correspondent accounts of the specialised investment funds. According to the chairman of the Council of Investment Funds, chairman of the First Republican Investment Fund Alyaksandr Samankow, the order is regarded by the leaders of SIFs as a direct violation of the current legislation because there were no legal reasons for the suspension. Moreover, the text of the order contains no reference to any documents to back up the allegation that the investment funds violate the law. Mr. Samankow defined the order as a direct infringement of the rights of the Belarusian citizens who had placed their IPCs in the shares of the specialised investment funds. 70 thousand people are clients of the First Republican Investment Fund alone. Mr. Samankow intends to initiate an appeal to the Supreme Soviet with the request to consider the problem at the session of the parliament which resumes its plenary sittings on April 10.

ERBD Opens Credit For Small Nonstate Business

*WS3103132895 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 1200 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement has been signed in Minsk on the opening of a credit line by the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] to finance Belarusian small and medium enterprises. This was reported to journalists during a news conference by the chairmen of the Belbiznes Bank and the Prior Bank, Kazimir Turuta and Syarhey Kastysuchenka, who signed partnership agreement with the international financial organization.

It is the first time that the EBRD allocated money to nonstate-run enterprises in our country. The credit line amounts to \$300 million. The project's characteristic feature is the stipulation that it can only be joined by those production collectives not exceeding 500 employees and \$2 million in fixed assets.

Moldova**Uzbek President Ends Visit**

*LD3103174595 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in
Uzbek 1300 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the second day of his visit to

Moldova, visited the country's parliament. Here, the Uzbek leader met Moldovan Parliament Speaker Petru Luchinskiy and the heads of Moldovan parliament committees.

In the conversation, it was noted that the consolidation of relations between Uzbekistan and Moldova and the development of contacts between the parliaments of the two countries, require special attention.

Islam Karimov expressed satisfaction during the meeting that a legal basis was created for friendly economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation between the countries. He stressed that the agreements reached have put relations between Uzbekistan and Moldova on a new level.

With this, the state visit of President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Moldova ended. At the end of the visit, an official departure ceremony was held for the Uzbek leader and the delegation accompanying him.

Student Strikers Appeal to International Organizations

AU0204141795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1925 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 30/3/1995—The Republican Strike Committee appealed to the Council of Europe and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights "to undertake measures in order to put an end to violations of human rights and freedoms in Moldova." Anatol Petrencu, strike committee chairman, stated at the manifestation that "the decree establishing a moratorium on modifications to the Guidelines for Education, issued yesterday, is an important step made by President Mircea Snegur, who proved to be more responsive and open to dialogue." "The president's promise to initiate the annulment of the constitutional preamble and Article 13 has not been honored and it may happen that this step will not be made under the pressure of the ruling party," said Petrencu. Referring to Premier Andrei Sangheli's report, presented yesterday in Parliament, he noted that "the ruling party and government opted for harsh methods in dealing with the demands... The premier blames the protesters for destabilization of situation in Dniester and so-called Gagauzia, trying to conceal the total failure of the negotiations with Tiraspol leaders." The strike committee appealed to "international and national student and youth organizations to support the strike, to Western scientific centers specialized in Romance languages and East-European history, UNESCO to take an attitude toward the policy of dictatorship pursued by the current rulers." Another appeal was made to the embassies accredited in Chisinau "to inform correctly their governments about the reasons for this strike and how the Moldovan government understands democracy."

Strike Committee Allowed To Attend Parliament Session

AU0104180395 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1920 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 31/3/1995—The protest manifestations continued today in Piata Marii Adunari Nationale in the center of Chisinau. Oleg Cernei, Moldovan Students League chairman, said to BASAPRESS that the protesters officially handed their demands to President Mircea Snegur, Speaker Petru Lucinschi, and Premier Andrei Sangheli. He also said that "the strike committee demanded that the Parliament discuss the modification of Constitutional preamble and Article 13" but the deputies opposed. The protesters marched on the central avenue and stopped in front of the Parliament. The Parliament allowed the strike committee to be present at today's session "given that aspect of the agrarian reform and payment of salaries and pensions will be discussed." The strikers' demands were not discussed. Speaker Petru Lucinschi pointed out that amendments to the Constitution cannot be made hastily, but according to the regulations in effect. The revision of the Constitution can be initiated by at least 200,000 eligible voters in at least half of all districts and cities by collecting signatures, a third of all Moldovan deputies as well as Moldovan president of government. The draft constitutional laws can be submitted to the Parliament with a recommendation of the Constitutional Court voted by at least four judges. The Parliament may adopt a law on amendments to the Constitution after at least six months since the submission of the initiative.

Dniester Region Unrest Potential Examined

954F1943A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 13, Mar 95 pp 1, 6

[Article by Igor Morzharetto and Viktor Perushkin under the rubric "Spring": "They Are Already Planting in the Dniester Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An unprecedented fact served as the reason for the journalistic investigation: Lieutenant General A. Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, appealed to the mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to assist in looking into gross violations of human rights in the Dniester Region. Cited as an example was the illegal act of detaining citizens S. Verguz and V. Bondarenko in custody. The Russian general characterized the acts of the authorities of the Dniester Moldovan Republic (DMR) as "extremely scandalous arbitrariness."

What Will You Sow?

Until recently Vitaliy Petrovich Bondarenko considered himself a solid and respectable person. With good reason! At a time that is difficult for the Dniester Region, he has established a bank and several firms, and he alone provides the entire region with bread and oil products.

The residents of Tiraspol have nominated him as candidate for deputy to the city soviet in the forthcoming elections.

But... on 6 March he was invited to the Ministry of State Security (MGB DMR) as a witness, and unceremoniously twisted his arms behind his back, handcuffed him, and threw him into a jail cell, where he is still being held. They did not allow him to sleep or eat for several days, they are not accepting parcels, and they are not permitting a lawyer or his relatives to see him. A search was made of his firm's office, but at this time no charges have yet been brought against B. Bondarenko, and as before he is considered detained... as a witness.

What is happening today in the Dniester Region? In the two years that have passed from the time the war ended, it would seem that it is exactly the people of the Dniester Region who won. They achieved independence (which, of course, no one recognized), and now they have their own president, their own parliament, and even their own currency. Only they have no life. Practically all industrial enterprises are idle. Electricity and water are shut off in the cities several times a day—morning and evening. There is an abundance only of cut-glass tumblers and pails in the stores. The average monthly wage is 100,000 local coupons (about \$10), a pension—25-35,000 coupons, stipends for students in higher educational institutions—1,500 coupons. Meanwhile, prices in the Dniester Region are higher than in Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova by a factor of 1.5 to two. For example, the cheapest meat at the market is 25,000 coupons.

What is more, the sowing season, which needs a lot of money, is imminent. But where it is to be obtained was not clear until recently. It was not clear until a simple and wise decision was made in truly proletarian spirit. It is recounted that Vadim Shevtsov allegedly called his subordinates together and said: There is no money, it is said, in the treasury, and our task, comrades, is to find \$4 million for sowing. So they approached several entrepreneurs in order to find the money, or rather, to beat it out of them. "Investigator Grushevskiy did not let me sleep for five days, and then he said he would release me if I give them \$1.2 million for the spring sowing... But after learning that I did not have this kind of money, he promised to arrest my wife as well" (from V. Bondarenko's statement to the procurator general of the republic).

That is the way economic problems are resolved in the Dniester Region. Thanks to the fact that the instrument is at hand: edict No. 222 of the president of the DMR "On Immediate Measures for Protection of the Population from Banditry and Other Manifestations of Organized Crime," according to which any person can be held without the procurator bringing charges and sanctions for a period of up to 30 days. Incidentally, the Dniester Region edict is a "copy" of the analogous Russian edict, down to the last comma.

"These measures remind one very much of road safety month," General Lebed thinks. "Something is done,

some papers are signed, and cars continue to hit each other as they used to, and pedestrians continue to be harried as before. It can be said with confidence that this is nothing but an excellent mechanism for the fight against dissidence. Any prosperous muzhik can be made an invalid of the 1st group in 30 days, and he can be put on the spot under any article. So, two bankers—Verguz and Bondarenko—are now in prison. For the first, the leadership of the republic 'rang up the register' for \$350,000, for the second—\$1.2 million. Moreover, Mr. Shevtsov, the minister of security, declared without any shame that as soon as they hand over the money, they will be released immediately. How can this be explained? If you are a thief and you stole this money, then it is not enough to return it, you also have to spend time in prison. But here everything is so simple, for compassion: You gave us the indicated sum—take a walk. Vasya did not give us it—sit in the preliminary detention building."

Thus, an effort has been undertaken at the government level to suppress commercial banks with force and economic measures, which today has started to show a definite influence on the economy and policy of the state. It is for this reason that a fixed rate of exchange for the dollar was introduced in the Dniester Region. The official rate in the DMR is 3,300 coupons to the dollar, but the real price for which it can be bought on the market is 9,500 coupons. The difference enables local "princelings" to make a fortune.

Who Will Sow?

There is one explanation for the "raids" on people's money today: The enormous state property pie has already been divided, all the places have been occupied on the market, and force is needed in order to secure at least a piece. But the ideology of robbery can always be justified by talking about the fight for justice. Minister of State Security Shevtsov has already declared publicly on television that a group of "enemies of the people" that caused unprecedented economic damage to the republic has been arrested, and it is because of this group, as a matter of fact, that the people have been and are living so poorly.

Incidentally, the other day he promoted himself from major to general, and he gave his ministerial chair to his own deputy—Sergeant A. Paskaliu, simultaneously promoting him to colonel, and he himself became chief of the Committee for Republic Security under the president. Now, not only the MGB but also the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and also, apparently, President Smirnov himself are subordinate to him. In the meantime, the authorities in Latvia and Lithuania have repeatedly asked through Interpol for the release to them of V. Shevtsov, a former officer of the Riga OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] as a participant in many crimes on their territory. But the DMR is not recognized by anyone and is not subordinate to anyone. They have their own laws there, owing to which Shevtsov lives well.

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...Then He Will Also

In order to understand what the local population of the DMR wants today, we decided not to limit ourselves to conversations with the managers of enterprises and businessmen, but conducted a flash poll at the Tiraspol market. Twenty persons out of the 26 who were polled expressed themselves in favor of... joining Moldova. And all of them are against the policy of the present DMR leadership. Here is a typical opinion, as told to us by Tatyana, a worker at the Tiraspol cotton combine:

"Well, what came of the fact that in 1992 my husband fought against the Moldovans, and was even wounded? Even then, despite the war, I went to Chisinau for food products. And how are we living now? Like paupers, even worse. We take things to Moldova and Ukraine to exchange for food. In Chisinau there is hard currency and the leu, and prices are lower than here by a factor of two. Our coupon is falling even faster than the Ukrainian coupon. There is no work in Tiraspol—my combine is idle, and we are only living because we buy food products in Ukraine and resell them here. So, why is this kind of independence necessary? We do not need it, only our leaders need it. We have nothing to share with ordinary Moldovans, and we do not hold a grudge against each other. But our politicians have simply deceived us..."

On the third day of our assignment we suddenly sensed how a kind of information vacuum was forming around us. Several persons who held responsible posts one after another suddenly began to decline planned meetings under various pretexts.

The culmination came when we dropped by the office of the Tiraspol'skiy Bank. Four armed thugs in camouflage uniforms, with handcuffs, came in right after us and took away the 19-year-old secretary of the chairman of the board. The local militiamen did not dare come to her defense: Who will argue with the all-powerful Ministry of State Security. For the Dniester Region, such abductions "for a conversation" have already become a customary occurrence.

It was after our return from the assignment that we heard about the results of the referendum and the elections to the local soviets conducted in the DMR. The people

unequivocally expressed support for the presence of the 14th Army in the republic. They see it as the only guarantor of security—moreover, no longer from "expansion" on the part of Moldova, but rather from the arbitrariness of the local authorities.

On the other hand, the authorities of Moldova declared both the elections and also the referendum invalid: the elections—inasmuch as there is no mention of any kind of "soviets" in the Constitution of Moldova, and the referendum—because for Moldova the 14th Army is foreign. Incidentally, the DMR leadership is also against the presence of the army. It is apparent from all this that the situation in the region is extremely complicated both politically and economically. And this is understood first and foremost by Russia's special services. In any case, in the opinion of General Lebed, Shevtsov and company are operating in coordination with the Federal Counter-intelligence Service. In the final analysis, all this could lead to the next conflict...

'Centrist' Forces Fear Dniester May Become 'an Albania'

AU0204140995 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1925 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 30/3/1995—If the leftist forces come to power in Dniester, the region will be facing a serious economic crisis and will become an Albania of the '70s or Cuba of the '90s, leaders of the Centrist Electoral Blocs stated today at a press conference in Tiraspol. Andrei Safonov and Sergei Kulik, "Stability and Reconciliation" bloc leaders, and Grigori Volovoi and Nikolai Isakov, "Bender" centrist bloc leaders, reviewed the results of the first round of local elections in Dniester at the conference. They argued that the massive promotion of leftist candidates was caused by the official press which discredited the rivals. Safonov called Professor Yakovlev "liar," declaring that he intends to sue him for slander. The Centrist Bloc's leaders are willing to participate in the second round of local elections. In their opinion, the leftist forces do not have a constructive economic program to overcome the crisis and, therefore their governing would reduce Dniester to the situation in Albania.

Kazakhstan**Bulgarian President Stops Briefly Enroute to Seoul**

LD0204181495 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zhelyu Zhelev of Bulgaria made a short stopover at Almaty airport early this morning.

[Correspondent] The high-ranking guest and his delegation were met at the airport by First Deputy Prime Minister Nigmatzhan Yesengharin and Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev. The Bulgarian president and our first deputy prime minister then held talks, during which they noted that Kazakhstan is now becoming a kind of bridge between Europe and Asia. Our countries are united by common efforts to implement economic reforms.

After refueling, the Balkan Airlines aircraft with the Bulgarian president on board left for Seoul.

Chechen Minister on Visit To Reduce Refugee Crime

LD3103172695 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] An unusual guest visited the Khabar information agency today. But before you meet him, here is some information: Baudin Samayev, minister of housing and communal services of the Chechen Republic, member of government of the Chechen Republic.

Baudin, what is the situation in the Chechen Republic like today?

[Samayev] At the moment military operations are under way in the Chechen Republic. Aircraft are still being used, as well as bomb and rocket attacks. And artillery is also being used. Not only in the city of Grozny, but in some villages near the city the military actions are going further. One village has been even wiped off the surface of the earth.

[Correspondent] That means that reports that the situation in the Chechen Republic has been stabilized do not correspond to reality.

[Samayev] That is an absolute lie.

[Correspondent] Why have you come to Kazakhstan?

[Samayev] The main issue is that we, our government, have heard rumors that the refugees arriving in Kazakhstan are being very well received. But there are people among them who are providing work for the law-enforcement organizations. I have already been told that five people have been detained for racketeering.

I personally want—and a program has been prepared for this—to gather the [Chechen] diaspora together, invite the leadership of the law enforcement organizations and do some work. I want to select respected people among the diaspora to help the law enforcement organizations. This is so that here, at least, there will not be talk about the crimes that are today heard and ascribed to us throughout the whole Russian Federation.

Kazakhstan is the second homeland. We have been very warmly received here.

Nazarbayev Speech on Referendum; Other Issues

LD3103164595 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 1420 GMT 29 Mar 95

[Speech by President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the second congress of the Federation of Trade Unions; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] By the businesslike atmosphere here I can see there is a great understanding of the sociopolitical situation that pertains in Kazakhstan today. I see that there is a serious approach, and I do not think it should be any other way today. [passage omitted]

The one-nation state is no panacea for all ills. On the contrary, isolated states are doomed to collapse in the 21st century. Those states that are integrating, communicating, and on friendly terms within themselves and with their surroundings will be the ones that develop. That is an indisputable axiom.

I think that the trade unions, too, are capable of making a more valuable contribution to this noble task of the creation of an atmosphere of peace and accord. What is this, if not defending the interests of working people? This is in fact what defending the interests of working people is.

The proposal by the participants in the session to hold a nationwide referendum on extending the president's term of office until the year 2000 [as heard; in fact the date is December 2001] was above all a surprise to me.

But on the other hand, I regard it as a great [sign of the] trust and support of members of the multi-ethnic people of Kazakhstan for the policy course of reform and independence, and for my initiatives on integration of the Eurasian area.

I have come to say frankly to you: Why are we afraid, for example, to call this Federation of Trade unions a state federation? I ask you this. Let us stop pretending that the democratic world will not understand us in the right way. Being a state [organization] does not mean being in the president's pocket politically, but rather being a trade union that cares about the State of Kazakhstan; a trade union that wants the people to break this deadlock and wants to take their country into a better future together with the government and those who own property today. Why do we not clearly [word indistinct]?

In the USA, which we often like to cite as an example, the trade unions receive immense support, \$10 million, from the state, in order to work properly. In other words, the partners should get together round the negotiating table and defend the interests of working people and defend glasnost so that the people can see it.

But when the two sides come and there is no other opportunity, [and they say] we have decided this and we have decided that, yet we resolve it a year or five years later—since we have placed all the opportunities on the table today, let us start working together. That is the kind of state trade union I have in mind. And when all the issues [words indistinct] this ideal as much as you want [words indistinct]. There is no pressure being applied—money that does not exist will not cover it.

And breaking lances over the issue will not resolve anything. Well, the miners might start another strike. But nobody will receive their monthly wages, as happened this time.

Well, we have already been along this road. Not everyone who is working gets a [word indistinct], but those who are not working get one.

Everything I have said here should not be taken as a call for trade unions to curtail their activities in the political arena. On the contrary: The political spectrum is not complete without the trade unions.

Yes, it is, of course, difficult for our people now. But the collapse of the old unitary state and economy is the main cause of these difficulties. Suppose the human organism, God forbid, loses an arm or a leg, it takes medicine, it is ill and has a fever until it heals and the blood vessels find a way to circulate. That is like what we are going through at the moment.

Therefore, there is no need to search for the guilty or for some villains here. The conditions we have are the ones we have. We need to survive together. Our destiny has not left us room for discovery. That is why we are heading in ignorance along a path that has already been beaten by the whole of the civilized world.

During such reforms it is absolutely impossible to avoid shocks engendered by an nonviable economy based on subsidies, on artificial prices, and artificial demand. Only a rational macroeconomic policy could have halted galloping inflation. As you are aware, this is not currently happening today [words indistinct].

The next point is that this leads to a decline in production and exports in the early stages. This prepares the ground for the liberalization of prices and foreign trade. This has now been done.

The whole of world experience—that I study carefully and thoroughly—of the post-Soviet period, East Europe, the countries that are on their way out of crisis, and others who went this way 100 years ago, or in the 50 years since the war, tells us that such processes cannot

happen without pain. And those were countries that knew what private property was. And three or four of our generations have been raised with hostility toward private property. That is the whole point.

Furthermore, we are building a new state, plus we have completely changed our collective system from one to another, and third, we have got into a crisis and are still implementing more economic reforms.

Do you think that this can all be overcome smoothly and without pain? Elsewhere this has been accompanied by civil wars and revolutionary battles. [passage omitted]

The exchange rate of the national currency should become a stable nominal value. By the way, a strong currency is a principal right of the state. We are doing this today.

We will bring the national currency fully into line with hard currency, the dollar. Do not think that there is no opportunity to [words indistinct]. We will not let that happen. We [words indistinct]. We are regulating [words indistinct].

The practice of regulating wages must also be abandoned. We have done this, too. Earn as much money as you want, but pay the taxes fixed in law to the state.

At this difficult time the government has had to resist demands for help and support, and for credit on preferential terms. I praise this new government that has been able to resist this. Without this, people's suffering will have been both painful and protracted.

In spite of all this, rapid privatization needs to be carried out—freeing [word indistinct] from ministries and the state. Everybody does it this way. Not only so that the government earns money from privatization, but in order to find a true owner who will be responsible for production and the work force. [passage omitted]

When we make real property out of them privatize them in a humane way, it will be the last blow to those who want to keep controlling the economy. The government that does the least to control the economy, and which gives freedom to workers and their elected leaders, is the best. It will be a blow to the bureaucracy and their conservative ambitions.

It has been necessary to resist populism that is seeking to push the economy toward inflation again. That is why, at this precise moment, the struggle between all political forces has become tougher—right and left, communists, socialists, patriots, chauvinists, they all have united to because the ground under their feet is giving away. Kazakhstan cannot be taken back to what there was before.

The next area of economic reforms is to create a society where working people must not be impoverished. The difference from a socialist economy is that no one is forcibly made to produce. In other words, the strait-jackets are removed altogether, at every enterprise and

for each person, that is, to float freely in the market economy. That is the main aim. [passage omitted]

A special program is now being prepared for serious reforms in such spheres as education and health care. On the one hand, we have deprived health care of its former financial base, but we have not yet issued a law that enables them to earn their own living.

Education is in the same situation. All in all, how many institutes should there be in Kazakhstan? And is there any need for technical colleges in the current conditions? As for training colleges, perhaps they should come under the Labor Ministry, instead of spending money earmarked for the Ministry of Education.

We have to develop general education, and especially the higher education, which we need most. Are institutes of agriculture now needed in each of the 19 regions? Throughout the West tradesmen and animal breeders are produced by six months of study, not six years. Who receives training in these technical and training colleges, and to what end? Accountants for commercial organizations, it turns out, and managers for these organizations and waiters for private restaurants. In other words, we should make all that clear.

Yet the hospitals are empty. Why so? Under the law, we cannot take on people who want to supply equipment to hospitals, repair them, create new wards, and ensure a high standard of treatment for those people who have money. But those who cannot afford to pay need to be provided with free treatment, of course.

In general, secondary education should be free of charge for our people; it should be funded by the state. But higher education should be only be free for those who cannot afford to pay and those who are talented. We should support families who have many children. But those who have money and wish to give their children something more, let them do so. Is that not fair? We are moving toward the market. All of this now needs looking at, legal formulation, changes to the law, and a new program for education and health care.

With the democratization of society and the political stability in the country, the volume of investments in Kazakhstan is increasing. Not credit, but private investments. The USA alone invested \$1.5 billion in Kazakhstan as private investments, not as credits, not as loans. Twenty-two credit lines have been opened, but we cannot assimilate them. Prime Minister Qazhygeldin is now in the USA and Canada, where he is opening doors to various financial organizations for us. But is necessary to use these rationally—investments, not credit. We are receiving them.

But dear friends, you have to be patient and explain to the whole of society that the foundations are being laid for improvements in our society's life and our economy that are not far off.

I have to say that we have been through the worst of the hardships. That was when we freed the prices of bread, electricity, and everything else simultaneously; that was the most difficult time. And certainly I worried most of all. So we have got through that period. [passage indistinct] The peak of these hardships is over.

At the same time, opponents of market reforms joined those who always hesitate and wait in trying to prevent the anticipated improvements, and to throw away everything that was done wrong. Yet improvements in people's lives are not far off.

General public support is needed for the policy of stability, friendship, equality, and reform. So I have come to you for this support today.

A few words about the referendum. As a rule, a referendum, which is the legitimate and most direct, effective and clear form of expression of the people's will, is held at the most important periods in the life and of state and people. Such a situation has arisen here because of a number of circumstances.

First, it is clear that we are currently going through a crucial stage in the socioeconomic reform of society. These reforms have become irreversible. The following circumstances confirm this. New forms of people's social and economic behavior are taking shape and coming to the fore. People are becoming aware that they can rely above all on their own enterprise and work. Public and state institutions are adapting to the conditions of the democratic order and market relations. The reforms themselves are being carried out consistently and in accordance with universally recognized rules for the transition to an effective market economy.

As a result, there is light at the end of the tunnel. The macroeconomic showings of the past few months are evidence of that.

So one can say that a major and crucial point in the development of the Kazakh economy is taking shape. That's the first thing.

Second, on my initiative an uncompromising war has been declared on crime. It has nothing in common with seasonal campaigns or shows. We will act consistently. And I ask you to support this in the provinces as much as you can, because we cannot rely just on the police alone, who are actually fighting criminals face to face. We must fight crime all together, because it has become society's number one scourge. All reserves should be used for this fight, including the contribution of every aware citizen. Only thus will it be possible to radically revive the moral and psychological climate in society, to move away from the fear of impudent gangsters and hooligans, criminals, and those who pander to them, and to ensure tranquillity and safety in our streets and security in people's lives.

This requires that the authorities should receive an additional mandate of confidence from our people. I

would like to know whether they are of a mind to put up a resolute fight against crime or not.

Third, after that well-known decision by the Constitutional Court a parliamentary crisis arose in the state. In line with the law, the president was invested with legislative powers. And that required that this guarantor of the constitutional system, a president invested with extraordinary powers who personifies state authority, should be confirmed by a vote of confidence from the people, all the citizens. That is why, after consulting experts and lawyers, I agreed to the recommendation by the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan, a very representative collective body equally representing the views of all the regions and, importantly, those of all the nations and ethnic groups living in our state.

This makes it possible for the president to carry out economic reforms as rapidly as possible, as well as to get down to most important constitutional reforms in the shortest possible time, and to create the prerequisites for conducting elections to a new parliament.

A yes vote in the referendum will give me an opportunity to carry out reforms resolutely in order to improve our citizen's lives, to lay the legal foundations for equality of all people's rights, to integrate with all our neighbors on the basis of the Eurasian Union project, to continue the policy of peace and friendship in and around the country, and to wage a tough fight against crime.

All this will deliver society from a dangerous struggle for power at this difficult time, and above all, it will strengthen the state, law and order, and the independence of our common homeland, the Republic of Kazakhstan.

These, then, are the objectives of this referendum. In addition, the necessary laws must be issued, first of all a tax law, laws on bankruptcy, banks, deposits and securities, and to carry out legal reforms.

That is why I announced the referendum, and I thank those who have supported this move in speeches from this platform.

I want to say again to you, as I said at the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan: Do not think that this is just what Nazarbayev needs. You have known what sort of a person I am for a number of years now. All my policies are conducted in full view of you.

It is what all the people in Kazakhstan need, every family that does not want Chechnya, Karabakh, Tajikistan, or other kinds of bloodshed. For these people the thing that is needed most is to get the country out of the dead-end. That is who needs this.

As far as Nazarbayev is concerned, he is one of the 17 million people of Kazakhstan. I basically do not suffer from an ambition for high office, as they say. God has given me all that I have known in my life.

So I appeal to the broad public and to you, as the body of trade union delegates, and to all the people of Kazakhstan yet again, to express your opinion on this most important task facing our people and state.

I wish you success. Thank you, and all the very best.

President Decrees Formation of Ethnic Affairs Committee

LD0204102395 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of implementing a common state nationalities policy and ensuring legal guarantees and respectful treatment for all languages used in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the president of Kazakhstan has issued a decree on the formation of a State Committee for Nationalities Policy.

President Issues Decree on Combating Crime

LD0204101595 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan has issued a decree on the formation of a Republican Council for Combating Crime and Corruption. Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin is the chairman of the council.

The full text of the decree will be published in the press.

Nazarbayev Condemns Poor Crime Fighting

LD0204131695 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The second working meeting of the republican headquarters on fighting the crime was held on 31 March 1995. The meeting was presided over by the chairman of the headquarters, President Nursultan Nazarbayev. [passage omitted]

Nursultan Nazarbayev again made remarks on the sluggish and protracted pace of the law enforcement organizations' work. For instance, why have few major racketeer groups been uncovered so far, where and how many officials have been arrested for corruption and bribetaking; what is being done to confiscate weapons and isolate drug addicts and drunkards?

[Begin recording] [Nazarbayev] Is this how you work with the directorate for fighting organized crime? Or does each of you work separately?

[Unidentified official] I, sort of, myself, er, graduated... [pauses]

[Nazarbayev] Tell it like it is.

[Official] I have been in this service ever since I graduated from Karaganda higher college. I consider myself a professional. I believe that we need this service.

[Nazarbayev] Do you have any contact with each other?

[Official] We do.

[Nazarbayev] There is also organized crime in the field of economics, that's where it mostly happens.

[Official] Yes, that's right. We have contact with the joint group. But our service's assignments are like this, somewhat preventive. The decree adopted by you... [pauses]

[Nazarbayev] Everything you have reported here because your name was put down [to be a speaker] is all trivia. You report to the president about 1,500 tonnes of grain. One agricultural team leader can gather that. A tractor driver. And here 463 recorded major misappropriations have been reported to me, and less than 200 reached the court.

This is the result of your work. What is this? Why are we keeping you? You should be paid less. Those who uncover the crime and benefits the state should be paid more. You say you are paid less than the tax inspectorate workers. And you produce reports like this here. And what is the point if everything falls apart and never gets to court—two thirds of what you are doing? [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Nazarbayev] Your department knows so many racketeer groups yet you cannot get close to them. You cannot get into condition. You cannot arrest them. How many of them are there?

[Second unidentified official] In the capital... [pauses]

[Nazarbayev] You have not got close to them.

[Second official] There are 12 such groups in the capital.

[Nazarbayev] OK, smash them. If you know exactly who they are, then smash them. The prosecutor will give you the sanction. If we know that they are operating, let us stop listening and tiptoeing around them.

You know everything. The police know everyone on the spot. I don't believe it. If I am sitting here and I know, then the police officer in the region, in an urban block, knows for sure.

Who is preventing you from working? Who is interfering in your work?

[Second official] No one is interfering in our business.

[Nazarbayev] Who is impeding it? Who is defending them? Who is covering things up? Say it out loud.

[Second official] Well, there are some problems with some of the local heads of administrations. Well, I haven't heard about it directly... [pauses]

[Nazarbayev] What heads? Give us their names.

[Second official] After a criminal case was brought against Satbayev there was a certain amount pressure. I had a telephone call from the head of the Dzhzhkezhgan internal affairs subdivision.

[Nazarbayev] Who from? Who was the pressure from?

[Second official] Well, clearly it came from the head of administration.

[Nazarbayev] Clearly.

Well, as long as we fail to call a spade a spade we will not impose order in the country.

We must start with ourselves. Those who are sitting here. To what extent are we capable of doing this? Are we clean enough to be able to talk about this out loud? Is the official sufficiently unimplicated to be able to catch him and not be exposed himself later? That is the problem. [end recording]

The meeting also heard reports on enforced treatment for alcoholics and drug addicts, the operation of private investigation agencies, the work of the economic and organized crime department, the creation of an investigative office analogous to the United States' FBI, the operation of the media to publicize a healthy way of life, and cuts in the broadcasting of alcohol and tobacco advertisements on television. The issue of young people's leisure time, and the establishment of youth clubs and discos. [passage omitted] At the conference President Nursultan Nazarbayev also raised the issue of the Prosecutor's Office.

[Begin recording] [Nazarbayev] What should the role of the Prosecutor's Office be? The highest-level supervision over fulfillment of the law; the judge and arbiter in the fulfillment of laws. It should not get involved in other dirty matters, whether there is an investigation or not. That is not just my judicial or civic understanding.

The judge judges. The militiaman—the police; I think we should get away from that name—the police keep order in society, so that crimes against persons are not committed, so that there is order in the streets, so that there is no mass disorder, and so that all the swindlers and hooligans are arrested. The policeman hands over the suspects to the investigative organizations.

And he is respected on the beat because he prevents neighbors bashing each other's heads in. Isn't that right? And when he walks along with two Colts at his sides, about 80 meters, at least 80 meters [as heard], he is respected. There are already many such policemen as it is here. His status is enhanced. He is a respected man.

You told me, and I have told everybody, that if someone gets killed they ask whether the prosecutor has come to investigate. How so? Is the policeman's action to be checked on by anyone? But if it is a policeman that gets killed, they say a criminal killed him and the case is closed.

If the role of the Prosecutor's Office—the body which supervises everything—does not rise by itself... [pauses] The Prosecutor's Office is there whenever someone breaks the law. Your hands are free. You will act as real

prosecution service which supervises everyone; supervises legality and everything. Then we will be able to tell everyone that we have a body which supervises fulfillment of the law in the state. The prosecutor issues a document on anyone who breaks the law and hands it to the investigative organizations.

[Third unidentified official] Nursultan Abishevich, I fully agree with you, your convictions. But the main point today is to reorganize the investigative system, to shift it and merge it with something else. We are losing personnel. I think that is obvious.

[Nazarbayev] That is a different issue. I am talking about the essence, the very concept. I do not support either one option or another. I want to find out for myself whether or not it is useful for the state and for the fight against crime. Once the investigative service disappears, especially at local level, the heads naturally lose major levers of influence.

The top officials are sitting here, the generals and the high-ranking officers of our law enforcement organizations. I do not want to speak about you, since I respect you all. Just look around you, there are officials who have not been policemen for a long time sitting there. Don't you see? They have not been prosecutors for a long time, they have not been judges for a long time, a long time. In past years, Komsomol and party workers were sent to work and there are lots of them in various offices now. Are they policemen, then? I said last time that the higher education establishment of the Interior Ministry... [pauses] How long does the police academy in America train, Kairbek Shoshanovich?

[Shoshanovich] Ten months.

[Nazarbayev] Ours train for five years. They should learn the Kazakh laws, and learn the Constitution and criminal code by heart. And he should be taught certain techniques: how to catch people and put them into prison.

Shaykenov is right when he says that we hold on to what we know by our teeth and are scared to do anything new; we shake at the knees. That is the point. And we cannot and do not want to admit it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Police Corruption

LD3103172095 *Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1505 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[Studio interview with Kazakh Interior Minister Bulat Bayekenov by unidentified program announcer; from the "Ploshchad Respubliki 4" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[Announcer] Here is a pair of basically serious questions, which is why the authors did not sign them, I think. Why are our police so irresponsible and weak that they cannot impose order among themselves? And the next question,

from another viewer: Is there corruption among the leading departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs? If there is, will you give some examples, if you can?

[Bayekenov] Weak and...?

[Announcer] Weak and irresponsible.

[Bayekenov] Irresponsible. Yes, in fact the incidence in our internal affairs departments of breaches of discipline, abuses of position, and even the committing of crimes has grown in recent years. Moreover, I state with full responsibility that corruption has grown among people in the internal affairs bodies.

We are fighting this incidence. We ourselves uncovered the majority of internal affairs people who have been brought to criminal responsibility. A year ago a special internal security service was created. Well, policemen commit crimes. They commit them with cunning, which is why it is hard to detect them. Sometimes, of course, they find themselves patrons. [passage omitted]

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Speaks on Reforms, Presents Prime Minister

LD3103123495 *Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, Mar 31 (Interfax)—Joint efforts of all branches of power are essential if democratic reforms are to succeed and a market economy to emerge in the country, President Askar Akayev told a joint session of both houses of the Kyrgyz parliament.

"Unless we have strict law and order, anarchy and the future of a banana republic await us," he said.

Akayev called for formation of a national idea such as "the American dream" and a country-wide patriotic movement working for development and well-being of society "for the sake of Kyrgyzstan's future."

He emphasized the need to step up the role played by the government in the transition period and to cooperate with the local authorities in order to maintain law and order and make economic progress possible.

Akayev said that parliament has to adopt constitutional amendments and a significant overhaul of the legislative branch. He believed that parliament has to pass legislation on the government, the civil service and the local government, civil, land and tax codes, on support of private entrepreneurship and on foreign investments.

New legislation, he said, must facilitate the overcoming of the crisis, increase of export production, attraction of private investors, encouragement of private entrepreneurs, reforms of the law enforcement agencies and the setting up of an independent judicial authority.

Akayev emphasized that the privatization of state property has to be accelerated if the country is to achieve its political and economic goals.

He believed that the infrastructure for economic changes is still underdeveloped in the country, the privatization process is "weakened" while the land reform is slow.

Akayev also said that a new medium-term industrial policy has to be worked out.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1104 GMT also carries the following Bishkek-dated item: "Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev presented Apas Djumagulov as his choice for prime minister to the new body of the national legislature Friday. A joint session of both houses of the Kyrgyz parliament will be expected to endorse Akayev's choice for prime minister and discuss choices for Cabinet ministers. Under the Kyrgyz Constitution, the cabinet remains in office as long as the Supreme Soviet that confirmed it remains in power. Kyrgyzstan's old parliament went out of office when 168 of its 323 members refused to attend its sittings, early last September, but Akayev instructed the Djumagulov cabinet to keep working until there is a new cabinet to replace it."]

Supreme Council Reelects Dzhumagulov as Prime Minister

LD3103184195 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Mar 95

[Report by Irina Sarbanova on a meeting of the Supreme Council in Bishkek on 31 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Legislative Assembly session today examined a number of procedural matters. First the chairmen of the relevant Legislative Assembly committees and subcommittees were elected, as follows: Committee for Economic Reform and Finance—Anvar Artykov; Committee for Budgetary, Financial, and Tax Affairs—Oktyabr Musulmankulov; Committee for Banking, Economic Reform, and Investment Affairs—Sheraly Sydykov; Committee for the Industrial Sector and Support for Enterprise—[no first name as heard] Kochkeyev; Committee for Agrarian Reform—[no first name as heard] Grinko; Committee for Labor, Education, Science, Culture, Language, Youth and Women's Affairs—[no first name as heard] Achilova; Committee for the State System—[no first name as heard] Mukambayev; Subcommittee for Constitutional Affairs and the State System—Alisher Sabirov; Subcommittee for Defense, Security, the Fight Against Crime, and Human Rights—Kubatbek Baybolov; Subcommittee for International Affairs and Information—Mira Jangaracheva;

Committee for Deputies' Powers and Ethics—Sheraly Sydykov.

Then at 1000 a joint session of both Supreme Council chambers began. It was opened by Almanbet Matubraimov, the speaker of the Assembly of People's Representatives.

President Askar Akayev addressed the joint session.

The head of state congratulated deputies on their powers having been recognized and on the start of work in both houses of the Supreme Council. He called on those present to get away from [words indistinct], and he stressed that the laws passed in the old parliament contained defects and were interfering with the forward progress of reforms. Laws need to work toward economic stabilization and to protect the rights, honor, and dignity of all citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Aksar Akayev also dwelt in detail on economic problems, and on the need to work out an operational strategy and mechanism for the tax inspectorate, the tax police, and investment policy. The head of state also touched on problems in the agricultural industry.

President Akayev called on the deputies in the Legislative Assembly and Assembly of People's Representatives to devote their efforts to raising the standard of living of Kyrgyzstan's peoples. He requested the deputies to preserve the core of the government, and proposed [former Prime Minister] Apas Dzhumagulovich Dzhumagulov for the post of prime minister. After a short break, followed by a report from the former prime minister, the deputies started discussing his candidature. The deputies then voted in favor of Dzhumagulov by a show of hands. Dzhumagulov is thus prime minister of the present government. He was requested to create a structure for the appropriate ministries within 10 days. The two houses of parliament will consider the candidatures of ministers.

Here are the words of thanks of Apas Dzhumagulov, the reelected head of government.

[Begin Dzhumagulov recording] Dear people's deputies [preceding phrase in Kyrgyz], esteemed Mr. Speaker. I am naturally moved. Naturally [words indistinct] I am moved. I would like to say the following.

I am sincerely and deeply grateful to President Askar Akayev for his great trust, and I thank all the comrades who have spoken and all the deputies for their support, their hope, and their wishes.

I thank you for all the warm words that have been said here. I imagine they were said in anticipation. I will try to comprehend them constructively. I do understand them constructively. Of course I will do everything both possible and impossible in order to justify your trust, the trust of the president, the trust of the people, and your trust. I see your trust as being the people's trust.

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There will only be thing—work, accountability for the results of work, and infinite devotion to the fatherland, its affairs, concerns, and needs. I want to assure you that there will be no shortcomings in this tireless work.

One and the same attitude will be taken to everyone we have anything to do with. Justice will triumph—at least that will be the principle behind the work. Of course, an exacting and even intolerant attitude will be taken toward lack of accountability and failure to perform.

You may have no doubts that I will do everything to speed up reform and all the initiatives that are being implemented in the republic. I sincerely thank you once again. [end recording]

Parliament Endorses Dzhumagulov as Prime Minister

LD3103141895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, Mar 31 (Interfax)—At its joint session Friday, Kyrgyzstan's two-chamber parliament endorsed Apas Dzhumagulov as Prime Minister of the Republic.

He has 10 days to draft documents on government structure and submit his cabinet makeup to parliament.

According to the republican constitution, the cabinet's term in office is limited by the term in office of the parliament that has endorsed it.

The previous legislature ceased to exist after most of its members boycotted the parliamentary session in early September 1994. However, Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev asked the current government, led by Dzhumagulov, to carry on until a new cabinet was formed.

Prime Minister Supports Privatization Program

LD3103151195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, Mar 31 (INTERFAX)—Kyrgyzstan's government intends to encourage the creation of transnational corporations with the participation of state capital striving to form new export production in the republic. Prime Minister of the republican parliament Apas Dzhumagulov declared in Bishkek Friday [31 March].

He said that priority would be given to hydro-power engineering, the gold-producing industry, and the agrarian sector, as well as light and especially textile industry.

Dzhumagulov declared that he deems it necessary to privatize "all collective and Soviet farms" and to create peasant farms. He believes that it is necessary to transfer to a complex privatization in the fields of public health, culture and tourism, and to more actively create a securities market and reorganize the banking system.

Akayev Says Proposed Mandate Extension 'Hasty'

LD0304082395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0710 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishkek, 3 Apr—President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan has termed as hasty an initiative by a group of parliamentary deputies, who propose extending his mandate to the year 2000. Presidential Press Secretary Kamil Bayalinov made a statement about this at a briefing today.

Over 50 of the nearly 90 parliamentary deputies who have received their mandates have already signed a document proposing that Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev's powers should be prolonged.

"When he found out about the petition, Askar Akayev found himself presented with a fait accompli," the presidential press secretary said, among other things. "The president thinks that in any event, such an issue should be decided on legal grounds and in accordance with the will and interests of the people. Any hasty steps would be inappropriate here."

"Even if parliament decided in favor of the issue raised," Kamil Bayalinov told the ITAR-TASS correspondent, "before the president draws any final conclusions he will elucidate whether this is in line with the will of the people and the behest of the times. He will study international public opinion, and only then will he state his view on the problem of extending his mandate or of putting this issue to a nationwide referendum."

Leading Opposition Politician Faces Criminal Charges

LD0204092195 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITS in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Topchubek Turgunaliyev is leader of the party Erkin Kyrgyzstan (Free Kyrgyzstan), one of the first political parties to proclaim the struggle for democracy and international legal standards, and against corruption and crime, to be the bedrock of its activities, and which is currently in sharp opposition to the country's president, Askar Akayev. Turgunaliyev has badly tarnished his reputation as an incorruptible and selfless fighter for democracy, legality, and constitutionality.

Last year, Topchubek Turgunaliyev, the unambiguous and radical "town crier" of freedom, in his capacity as rector of the Bishkek Humanities University gave an order to issue \$10,000 in cash to his commercial director T. Stamkulov from the university cash office, supposedly to change money. It should be said that the university received these dollars from the USA as humanitarian aid to obtain teaching equipment.

The later fate of the university's money was more than strange. Months passed, but neither soms nor dollars nor equipment arrived at the university. The staff became indignant and demanded an explanation. They were told that T. Stamkulov was robbed, and so the money had simply vanished. With great difficulty they managed to recover only \$2,300 of the \$10,000. Subsequently, the professors and lecturers of the Humanities University demanded new elections for the post of rector and unanimously abandoned their "democratic benefactor." Next came a vote of no-confidence from the electorate, which did not elect him to parliament. And the other day, officials of the State Directorate for the Struggle Against Economic Crime and Corruption of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs handed over documents to the Bishkek Prosecutor's Office on bringing criminal proceedings against T. Turgunaliyev and T. Stamkulov for illegal financial operations.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Receives New Head of UN Observer Mission

LD3103181795 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Emomali Rakhmanov of the Republic of Tajikistan received Dr. Darko Silovic, the new head of the UN observer mission, yesterday [30 March]. During the talk, Rakhmanov confirmed that the republic's government was committed to holding the fourth round of inter-Tajik negotiations without any additional preconditions.

The same day the president received Mr. Adam Michel, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Belgium to the Republic of Tajikistan [name and title as received], who presented his credentials. Adam Michel is to be Belgian ambassador to the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan simultaneously, with his residence in Brussels.

He was also received by Prime Minister Jamshed Karimov yesterday. Mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

UN Military Observers To Increase

LD3103190095 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The staff of the UN military observers' mission in Tajikistan is increasing again. Colonel Lasel Korgach, the deputy head of the military observers, told a KHOVAR correspondent that another three military observers are joining the peacekeeping operation. They are citizens of Ukraine. As is known, this peacekeeping operation is being carried out under the auspices of the UN by military personnel from Denmark, Austria, Jordan, Switzerland, Hungary, Poland, and Bangladesh. The number of military

observers has reached 33, and is to total 40. The military observers are carrying out their duties in five towns and districts of the republic: in Kurgan-Tyube, Khorog, Garm, Moskovskiy, and Pyandzh.

Russian Border Guards Kill 12 Opposition Fighters

LD0104090095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0735 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 1 Apr—Twelve armed militants of the irreconcilable Tajik opposition were killed by Russian border guards after making two attempts on 31 March to cross from Afghanistan into Tajikistan in the areas monitored by the 3d border post of the Pyandzh border detachment. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this at the press group of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan. It was pointed out that they only fired for effect after some warning shots.

As the command of the Russian border troops predicted, the violation of the Tajik-Afghan border by Tajik opposition is occurring with increasing intensity as the warm season approaches and the mountain passes open up.

Islamists Leave To Protest Russian Cease-Fire Violations

LD0104104695 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, April 1, IRNA—Representatives of the Islamic groups opposing Tajikistan government in the joint commission for overseeing temporary ceasefire in Tajikistan left the republic for Afghanistan on Saturday [1 April] in protest to Russian's violation of ceasefire.

According to Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, the representatives had left Dushanbe for Afghanistan in protest to Russian troops' conduct south of Tajikistan and repeated violation of ceasefire by them.

Earlier, Tajikistan's Islamic Movement Party announced over the past couple of days that any effort made by the commission to restore ceasefire in Tajikistan was "very futile" due to Russian army's non-adherence to Tajikistan's ceasefire agreement. However, Russians believe that the ceasefire had been reached between Tajikistan government and its opponents, and since Russia was not a party to this agreement, it could not be held responsible for any violation of ceasefire. Therefore, conclude Russians, Russia could continue with its military operations against Dushanbe government's opponents.

According to a Russian commander, Russians repelled forces of the opposition groups last night firing on two Russian militarymen's posts. No report is yet available on death toll or extent of damage, which were inflicted on the belligerent parties in the clashes.

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'Extremely Tense' Situation on Afghan Border

LD0204155695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 1224
GMT 2 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 2 TASS—The situation in the Pamirs section of the Tajik-Afghan border remains extremely tense due to the ongoing concentration of armed groups of intransigent Tajik opposition in the Afghan border province of Badakhshan.

Moreover, the command of Russian border troops in Tajikistan and the republic's security services have available information about a new series of armed provocations which are being prepared against Russian border guards in the Vanch-Yazgulem sector, a well informed source in Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

On a written instruction from Said Abdullo Nouri, leader of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan, the staging of provocations has been assigned to opposition groups led by field commander Salamsho Muhabbatov. The groups call themselves self-defence detachments and are subordinated directly to the so-called government-in-exile.

The purpose of the actions, the source believes, is to provoke retaliatory actions from Russian border guards and to accuse them of violating the legal status of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan and thereby dragging out the conduct of the fourth round of the inter-Tajik dialogue.

The source stated that the group of Russian border troops possesses reliable information on concrete military plans of the intransigent Tajik opposition for the spring-summer period and will make an appropriate statement to local and foreign media representatives in the coming days.

At the same time the leaders of the military-political opposition in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous area denied outright the existence of a written instruction from Said Abdullo Nouri.

Uzbekistan

Tokyo Bank Grants Tashkent \$85 Million

LD3103211795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843
GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TASHKENT, ALMATY Mar 31 (FIA-Interfax)—The Ex-Im Bank of Japan and a number of major Japanese banks will soon open a credit line of \$85 million to the Uzbekistan National Bank of Foreign Trade and another one of \$180 million to the Kazakhstan State Bank for Development, the Financial Information Agency (FIA) learned from well-informed sources in the two republics' governments Friday [31 March].

According to the sources, relevant agreements were signed in Tokyo.

Under the agreement, Uzbekistan will receive tied credits equal to 9.91 billion yen (about \$85 million) for five years at 4.7 percent a year. The money will be used to purchase imported equipment for the exploration of the Kokdumalak oil and gas field. Uzbekistan will start repaying the credit in six months from the launch of the project.

For its part, Kazakhstan will be granted a total of 16.17 billion yen (about \$180 million) for five years, at 3.8 percent a year, to build a coking gas refinery at the Karaganda Metallurgic Combine.

According to the agreements, the two credit lines will be guaranteed by the Kazakh and Uzbek governments respectively. The Ex-Im Bank of Japan will grant 60

of the total amount, while the rest will be channelled by Japan's major banks such as Bank of Tokyo, Fuji Bank, Sumitomo Bank and Sakura Bank.

President Karimov Speaks on Referendum Results

LD3103154295 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in
Russian 30 Mar 95 pp 1,2

[Report on President Islam Karimov speech during a meeting held with representatives of the diplomatic corps and international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan and with employees of the republican and foreign media, in Tashkent on 29 March]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In particular, I would like to talk about the development of our relations with the United States. We consider the United States to be an important player in international politics, possessing great potential to contribute to maintaining global and regional stability.

In the context of bilateral relations, I want to note that political dialogue between our countries is continuing to gain speed. In turn, this is opening up opportunities for constructive cooperation in other important spheres, including military and technical cooperation. Economic contacts between our countries are being supported by expanding the contractual and legal basis. [passage omitted]

At the summit meeting of CIS heads of state and government in Almaty on 10 February, Uzbekistan clearly showed itself to be a supporter of the idea of cooperation and coordinating joint efforts for ensuring reliable security for the Commonwealth of the Independent States. At the same time, Uzbekistan considered the character and provisions of certain draft agreements on cooperation in protecting the borders of CIS member countries, as well as proposals on participation in the interparliamentary assembly submitted in Almaty, to be unacceptable to itself. We are for the closest economic integration and a single customs area, Islam Karimov

said, but resolutely against the creation of supranational structures, especially of a military character, which go beyond the framework of the fundamental principles of the CIS. [passage omitted]

Here I would like to reproach some journalists working in our republic a little, said Islam Karimov. Those who willingly report negative facts for some reason stubbornly refuse to see the positive changes. We do have to encourage the good and help it gain a foothold in life.

Obviously, you all are interested in learning my opinion about the nationwide referendum, said the president further. What was the meaning and sense of holding it?

First, the initiative to hold it came from the parliament elected by the people, and it based its decision on the Constitution. Therefore, the legitimacy of the arrangement cannot be doubted in the slightest.

For Uzbekistan, which is building its national statehood and forming a fundamentally new political structure of power, it is extremely important to remove any disparity in the terms in office of the president and parliament and to ensure unity of action in the executive and legislative branches, and with the entire people. Obviously, the aim of the referendum should be considered from these positions.

A number of commentators considered the referendum results to be a personal success for me.

I want to stress that in the given case, we should talk not about the president's personality, but first and foremost about our people's attitude toward the great changes taking place in the political and economic life of the

republic, and the people's attitude toward the policy being pursued by the republic's president and government.

We admit that we are in a difficult situation today. But the people's belief in the necessity of the reforms and their readiness to deepen them are strong. The referendum convincingly proved this by giving us a mandate of trust and consolidating our certainty that we have chosen the right path, Islam Karimov said in conclusion. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Sentences Opposition Activists

LD3103211995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843
GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 31 (Interfax)—The Supreme Court of Uzbekistan sentenced a group of activists from the unregistered opposition party Erk (Will) in Tashkent Friday [31 March].

An Erk spokesman in Moscow told Interfax that a former Uzbek deputy, Murad Dzhurayev, had been sentenced to 12 years in jail. Other Erk activists, including Erkin Ashurov, Shavkat Kholbayev and Nigbat Akhmedov, to 10 years each. The court convicted Khoshin Suvatov to six years and Shavkat Mamatov to five.

Erk Press Secretary Dilorom Iskhakova was given a suspended sentence of six years, taking into account that she has small children. For three years, she will be on probation and must avoid any kind of political activities.

The Erk activists were found guilty of plotting to overthrow the current authorities by force, keeping arms, narcotics and distributing a prohibited newspaper of the same name.

Armenia

Joint Military Exercise With Russia Concludes

NC3103133695 Yerevan SNARK in English 1558 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 30 (SNARK)—Joint tactical exercise of Russian troops in Trans-Caucasus and Armenian Armed Forces has ended today by its third phase demonstrating all-out attack supported by reserve forces, and complete destruction of the conditional enemy.

Exercise was headed by Commander of Russian troops in Trans-Caucasus, Col. Gen. Fedor Reut. Armenian part was controlled by the Defense Ministry Commander for training Maj. Gen. Muraz Sargisyan. The 59 km broad and 27 km long defense area was attacked by aviation represented by MiG-23b fighters, SU-25 attack planes, and MiG-24 helicopters, as well as by heavy and light artillery, armoured vehicles, tanks and landing force.

The exercise was attended by President and Supreme Commander of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Defense Minister Serzh Sargisyan, and by Georgian Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze. Military experts and attaches from a number of embassies in Armenia, as well as high-ranking military officials and World War II veterans were also present.

Col. Gen. Reut said to Snark reporter the exercise had been successful. The troops had fulfilled their task completely and in time. Armenian Armed Forces proved their combat skills.

Ceremonial formation terminated the exercise, during which Col. Gen. Reut and President Ter-Petrosyan handed memorial medals, honor certificates and souvenirs to distinguished soldiers, sergeants and officers.

Georgian Defense Minister on Possibility of Group Exercises

NC3103172495 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1109 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 31/03/95 NOYAN TAPAN—The Georgian Defense Minister, General-Major Vardiko Nadibaidze, who was present at the final stage of the Armenian-Russian joint military exercises, voiced a hope that in the near future not only bilateral but also trilateral military exercises with participation of Georgian units would be held.

He also reported that the structure of the Georgian army has been already outlined and the Georgian Commandment at present works on the question of forming of Air Defense, Navy and Air Force.

The Georgian Defense Minister also pointed out that he was impressed by the training level of the Armenian and Russian units. As he said, "the exercises were well prepared and successful."

Religious Figures Arrive for Election of Church Head

NC3103143195 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0920 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 03/31/95—Catholicos of Cilicia Garegin II arrived to Armenia on March 30 on a plane flying on the Beirut-Athens-Yerevan route. A reporter of "AZG" held a short interview with the Catholicos at the airport.

—What are your feelings when arriving to Armenia?

—The same feelings which a man can't help to feel if he truly feels he is an Armenian. First, this is a cordial feeling, that of being close to my native land, feeling of Holy Echmiadzin's blessed presence everywhere, both in Motherland and in the diaspora.

—What would you do for your people, if elected as the Catholicos of all Armenians?

—Whatever the will of God is, will come true.

—What is your opinion about unification of the two Armenian catholicosates?

—This is a question of the future.

The interview was interrupted here because of great many people who arrived to meet the Catholicos. Among them were Patriarch of Jerusalem Torgom Archbishop Manukyan, Nerses Archbishop Pozapalyan of Echmiadzin, Leaders of Eastern and Western dioceses of the USA Khazhak Archbishop Parsamyan and Vache Archbishop Hovsepyan, Secretary of Supreme Spiritual Council Asoghik Bishop Aristakesyan, leader of the Switzerland diocese Vigen Bishop Haykazyan, Mesrop Archbishop Mutaftyan, head of RA [Republic of Armenia] Presidential cabinet Shahan Karamanukyan, executive president of the "Hayastan" pan-Armenian fund Manushak Petrosyan, other officials.

Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan, Armenian Charge d'Affairs to Lebanon Yervand Melkonyan and ten deputies of the Spiritual Council arrived on the same plane.

Leader of the Damask [Damascus] diocese (which is officially subordinate to the Cilician catholicosate but does not factually submit to it) Gnel Archbishop Cherechyan also arrived on this plane. He refused to speak about ecclesiastical elections and stressed that he will express his opinion at the National Spiritual Assembly. "I expect that eminence of Holy Echmiadzin would be preserved and a worthy Catholicos would be elected to be respected, loved, and valued by all", he said.

Parliament Adopts Law on Legislative Elections

LD3103193995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, Mar 31 (Interfax)—The Armenian parliament adopted a law on elections to the republic's new parliament at an emergency session today.

In accordance with the law, the Armenian parliament will be called the National Assembly. The number of parliamentarians will be reduced from 245 to 190 people, of whom 150 deputies will be elected under the majority system in single-mandate constituencies and 40 from party tickets.

Cabinet members, prosecutor office officials, officers of the Interior Ministry and the army cannot be elected to the parliament.

Report on Armenia's Trading Partners During '94

NC3103182995 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1519 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 31/03/95 NOYAN TAPAN—According to the Armenian State Statistics Department, Armenia's primary trade partners are Iran, whose share in Armenia's commodity turnover except humanitarian aid constitutes 39.7 percent, Belgium—21.4 percent, Germany—8.3 percent and Italy—4.5 percent. As to Armenia's exports the great significance is currently attached to the markets of such countries as Belgium (49.6 percent of all exports to foreign countries), Iran (23.8 percent), Germany (9.3 percent), Cyprus (4.7 percent) and Great Britain (2.3 percent).

51.1 percent of all commodity turnover with the former Soviet Republics falls on the Russian Federation, 3.6 percent—on Turkmenistan, 5.6 percent—on Georgia and 2.1 percent—on Ukraine.

83.3 percent of all humanitarian relief delivered to Armenia in 1994 were provided by the U.S.A, 7.6 percent—by France, 5.9 percent—by Netherlands, 2.1 percent—by Switzerland. Moreover, the level of aid provided by the United States exceeds the volume of commodity turnover with Armenia's Number 1 trade partner, Iran.

Azerbaijan

Foreign Minister Meets UN Representative

NC3103174195 Baku TURAN in English 1231 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 31) TURAN—Yesterday the Foreign Minister, Gasan Gasanov, received the head of the UN representation in Azerbaijan, Mahmud El-Sa'id. During the meeting the Foreign Minister informed Mr. El-Sa'id about the latest developments in the country and the course of the negotiation process for the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict settlement. Gasan Gasanov said that unconstructive position of the Armenian party is the serious obstacle for achievement of the conflict settlement.

Mahmud El-Sa'id informed Gasan Gasanov about the UN conference on humanitarian assistance, which was held on March 23 in Geneva. He said that that amount of the humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan, which is

due to provided in 1995 through the UN, compared with last year will increase by 30 percent and reach \$34 million. Last year the amount of the humanitarian assistance totaled \$26 million.

Mr. El-Said also said that the UNESCO plans to implement several projects in the field of science and culture in Azerbaijan. He says in the near future the conference concerning providing compensations to the countries, which had suffered from the war, will be held in Tashkent by the joint initiative of the UNESCO and the International Society of the Red Cross.

Aliyev Concerned Over Russian-Armenian Military Pact

NC0304031395 Baku TURAN in English 1234 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 1) TURAN—Today the President Geydar Aliyev met with the U.S. Ambassador in Azerbaijan Richard Kauzlarich. Kauzlarich said that earlier he had presented the State Advisor of the President for Foreign Political Issues the text of the speech by the U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher on the Newly Independent States, made at the University of Indiana state.

"In his address Christopher several times mentioned Azerbaijan. I think that it points the U.S.'s interest to Azerbaijan," said the Ambassador. "This speech will be published in the press because it expresses our hopes. I instructed Guluzade to comment on by TV the address of Christopher for the purpose the population become acquainted with it. There are some major points in the speech by Christopher. In particular, the USA is able to explain the Russians that the regional conflicts should be resolved with the participation of the OSCE... I would like the U.S. to be more persistent in the implementation the decisions adopted at the Budapest summit," noted the President.

During the meeting they touched on the issues concerning the oil consortium. Aliyev said that yesterday he had had a telephone conversation with the U.S. Minister of Energy Mr. White who spoke on behalf the State Secretary Christopher. "I said that I respect the U.S. oil companies and today I instructed the SOCAR's [State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic] President Natik Aliyev to solve positively the issue concerning the participation of Exxon in the oil consortium," said the President.

Concerning the location of the military bases by Russia in Armenia and Georgia and the Armenian-Russian co-operation Aliyev said that "lately Russian mass media must speak about the bases in the region. The announcer of the Russian TV very positively commented the TV broadcasts of the military co-operation of Russian and Armenian alliance—their military manoeuvres. I ask them: Who against these forces are

aimed? I assess it as the pressure on the independent countries. [no end quote marks as received]

In this regard he said that he appreciates the idea by the State Secretary that the U.S. will promote the sovereignty of the Newly Independent States.

Aliyev said that Azerbaijan supports normal relations with Russia. He said yesterday he spoke on the telephone with Russia's Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin. They touched upon the political situation in Azerbaijan. The Head of Russian Government said that appreciates the constitutional rights of Azerbaijan and condemns the attempt of change of power by force.

"It is very important for us to have normal relations with Russia but under the condition of our independence and territorial integrity," said Aliyev.

Guluzade Blames Armenia for Blocking Negotiations

NC0304031295 Baku TURAN in English 2016 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 1) TURAN—"Up to the present moment the negotiations on the settlement the Armenian-Azeri conflict took place without preliminary conditions. But presently Armenia connects the continuation of the negotiations with the demand to recognise the Armenians of Karabakh as a party to the conflict, so they try to receive a legal international status. Forwarding preliminary conditions for continuation the negotiations, in fact, Armenia prevents the negotiations," TURAN was told by the State Advisor Vafa Guluzade.

According to Guluzade the OSCE Minsk group proposed its scheme on that problem. "According to the proposal of the OSCE Minsk group Azerbaijan and Armenia are the states involved in the conflict," said Guluzade. The State Advisor noted that the participation of the Karabakh Azerbaijanis in the negotiation process is not suitable for the Armenians and that is why they do not agree to hold the negotiations. Guluzade also said Azerbaijan has not given any answer on the scheme yet. "We do not want to discuss the procedure matters. However the Karabakh Armenians try to discuss only these matters. We propose to speak on the essence of the conflict—withdrawal the troops from the occupied territories, including Shusha and Lachin, and resolve of the issue concerning Shusha and Lachin." Azerbaijan is ready to discuss the proposal of the Armenians on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, but they have not given any proposals on that yet. According to Guluzade, taking such an unconstructive position Armenia tries to shift the blame on Azerbaijan.

Chechens in Azerbaijan Complain of Increased 'Control'

NC0304031695 Baku TURAN in English 2016 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 1) TURAN—"The control over the Chechens on the territory of Azerbaijan

is intensified, the Deputy Chairman of Chechen's Committee for Human Rights, Gusein Ayubov, told TURAN. He said that the police detains them and examines their passports without grounds. Gusein Ayubov mentioned that he does not understand the activities of the police, since Chechens are not involved in the politics. Chechens are here with business visits or cross the republic in transit.

The representative of the police told TURAN that the citizens from other states are checked within the framework of the law on state of emergency. And one cannot speak about preconceived attitude towards the Chechens.

Turkish Citizen Arrested for Links to Police Rebellion

NC0104194295 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, April 1 (AFP)—Azeri President Geydar Aliyev Sunday [2 April, as received] announced the arrest of a Turkish national accused of being linked with the elite police officers who led a rebellion against his regime last month.

"There are two Turks permanently in Javadov's circle, one of whom has been arrested," Aliyev said, referring to men close to rebel police chief Rovshan Javadov.

In an interview published in the latest edition of the Azeri weekly EURO-ASIA, Aliyev added that an inquiry should determine the role of the two Turks in the rebellion of the elite forces which was put down by the Azeri army at a cost of 38 lives, according to official figures.

The Azeri president said he did not believe that the Turkish Government was involved in the police rebellion, but said cryptically that "someone is trying to spoil the fraternal relations" between Baku and Ankara.

Last month, Aliyev accused "special foreign services" of being involved in the rebellion, without specifying which.

The paper said certain Turkish nationalist forces had maintained links with opposition Azeri forces, including former president Abulfaz Elchibey and the Grey Wolves, a dissolved ultranationalist organisation.

The Azeri president came to power in 1993, helped by tacit Russian support after a coup drove Elchibey from office.

He has since distanced himself from Moscow to reconcile the country with Turkey, which is involved in the exploitation of Azeri oil reserves in the Caspian Sea.

Former Leader Mutalibov's Interview With BBC Cited

NC3103172695 Baku TURAN in English 0751 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 31) TURAN—"The events on March 17 in Baku cannot be considered

as the coup attempt. That was only the conflict arisen due to ambitions of the former OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] employees. The conflict should have been settled by means of talks like in October 1994", Ex-president of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, told in his interview to BBC radio station. Since 1992 when he had been relieved of his post, Ayaz Mutalibov lives in Moscow.

Ayaz Mutalibov says that 200 OPON employees encircled by the governmental troops in their headquarters could not commit the coup.

Ex-President said that the information of the Azeri leadership that Ayaz Mutalibov is involved in the March events is absolutely false. "Using the bolshevist methods, the current leadership of the republic tries to present me as enemy and all hardships and sufferings of Azerbaijan are shifted on me", Mutalibov says. He says that if he really has the opportunity to exert influence on the events in Azerbaijan, the nation has grounds to charge him with the country management. "I could not be involved in these events, since I always was against the bloodshed. In March and May 1992 I had the opportunity to use force for suppression of the coup, but I left the office of the President of the will of the nation", he mentioned.

Ayaz Mutalibov considers that nobody can strengthen the power repeatedly staging the coups. "This history shows that the power based on the arms cannot be the long-lasting one", he said. Ex-president mentioned that presently there is no democracy in Azerbaijan, the dictatorship reigns here, the freedom of speech is violated and nobody is interested in the opinion of the political parties. This is the weak point of the current regime. In the democratic society each individual must have the opportunity to express his opinion freely", Ayaz Mutalibov said.

He also said that he is ready to cooperate with Azeri President and the opposition parties in case he returns in the country. "I do not wish to take the Presidential office. I, as Azeri citizen, simply must have the opportunity to express my opinion. I see that the current policy of the authorities will bring the country to the catastrophe", ex-president mentioned.

Questioned whether he will return to Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov said that the former leadership of the Popular Front and the current Aliyev administration cast slurs on him and initiate criminal proceedings against him closing his way to the Motherland. "They are afraid of my political activity in Azerbaijan and keep me far away from my home land", Mutalibov says. He believes presently considerable number of Azeri citizens back him up being aware of the proper policy he pursues.

Elchibey's Interview by VOA Reported

NC0304031795 Baku TURAN in English 2016 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 1) TURAN— "There are five major problems for Azerbaijan to be

solved. It is the liberation of the territories occupied by the Armenians, return of the refugees to their native lands, the measures for the social care of the population, stop of attack the democratic forces and conduction of the democratic elections," said in his interview to radio "Voice of America" (VOA) ex-president of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey.

According to Elchibey it is necessary to obtain an agreement in society and to expand the co-operation with the democratic forces of the world for the resolution of that problem.

Elchibey condemned the actions by authorities of the republic towards the opposition. According to him, the authorities prevented the conduction of the congress of the APF [Azerbaijan People's Front] which was to be held on March 25 in Baku. The activists of the APF, who prepared the documents of the congress had been arrested on different reasons. According to him, one should not hope that under such conditions democratic elections will be held. Elchibey proposed that only under the condition that the international observers from the UN, OSCE and the representatives of the democratic organisations there will be held the democratic elections.

Responding the question if the return of Russian troops to Azerbaijan is possible under the condition when the Russian bases are created in Georgia and Armenia, Elchibey said: "In 1993 Russian troops has left Azerbaijan. They did it according to the agreement, without any violence and their return is not possible."

According to him, if the troops return they will meet resistance by the democratic forces. "I think the present authorities do not wish it. At any rate we rely upon the democratic society," said he.

Bozgurd Opposition Party Banned

LD0204161195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, April 1 (Interfax)—The Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's Office decided to prohibit the Bozgurd opposition party on Friday [31 March] and made the intention known on April 1.

The Prosecutor General's Office said in its statement that the decision had been made proceeding from a report of Azerbaijani Minister for Justice Sudab Gasanov [name as received]. Gasanov repeated that the Bozgurd leader, parliamentarian Iskender Gamidov, who had been the interior minister in the government of Abulfaz Elchibey, and the party itself had taken part in the mutiny of the special police unit in Baku on March 17. The special police unit refused to carry out the decision on its disbanding.

The Azerbaijani authorities considered the mutiny as an attempted state coup.

Gamidov was arrested on March 17 and is still in custody. According to information available, he has not yet faced any official charges.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Receives Kalantari, Says Rafsanjani To Visit

LD0104095895 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 1, IRNA—Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi on Friday [31 March] said that cooperation with Tehran was of especial significance for Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze, who was speaking to the visiting Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari here Friday, referred to Tehran-Tbilisi "good" relations and imminent visit to Georgia of his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said that Georgian officials were trying to expand bilateral relations in all spheres.

Also referring to the ongoing changes in Georgian agriculture system, Shevardnadze called for utilizing Iran's experience in this regard and announced his respective country's readiness to establish "helpful" bilateral relations and cooperation.

Kalantari, who is here for an official state visit, conveyed warm regards of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and exchanged views with Shevardnadze on bilateral relations and cooperation. He said that Iran had always welcomed regional cooperation and attached importance to its having cooperation with the republic. He said that Iran was ready to cooperate with Georgia in various fields, including production of varying kinds of products, exchange of technology, tea production as well as in such fields as agricultural, industrial and educational.

Moreover, in separate meetings in Tbilisi on Friday Kalantari and his accompanying delegation and Georgian foreign minister and vice premier for agricultural affairs discussed various areas concerning mutual cooperation and relations.

Iran Confirms Economic Interests

LD0104163595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of the Georgian head of state has reported that yesterday, 31 March, Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze received 'Isa Kalantari, the minister of agriculture and rural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Fereidn Haqbin, Iranian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia.

The meeting heard that Iran had considerable economic interest in Georgia, above all, in agriculture and the chemical industry. A draft five-year cooperation agreement between the two countries' Agriculture Ministries has been drawn up. It envisaged, among other things, the setting up of joint enterprises.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress in agriculture, and, therefore, sharing experience with it would undoubtedly be beneficial for our country, said the head of state. He expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between Iran and Georgia. New evidence of this would be a visit to Georgia by the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which is to take place in the near future.

The delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran was also received yesterday by Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze and Deputy Prime Minister Bakur Gulua.

Tbilisi, Sukhumi Differ on Russian Peacekeepers

MK3103135695 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Liana Minasyan under the "Abkhazia" rubric: "Where Should the Troops Stand? Sukhumi and Tbilisi Views Regarding Russian Peacekeepers Differ"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Abkhazian and Georgian authorities definitely differ in their views on the role and functions of the Russian peacekeeping troops in the conflict area. In Tbilisi, public discontent over their activities—or, rather, inactivity—is growing: Georgian politicians believe that the troops must not fix the postwar reality—the separation of the sides along the Inguri river; instead, they should restore the prewar status quo. The main Georgian argument is: Until the refugees return home, no negotiations on the status of Abkhazia will bring any results.

In his turn, Sokrat Dzhindzholiya, Abkhazian parliament speaker, said in Moscow that the main task of the peacekeepers is to control the security zone along the Inguri river and, after the war is stopped, to create favorable conditions for the negotiations—"no movement of the peacekeeping forces into Abkhazia is envisioned by the mandate given to them by the agreement of 14 May 1994." Whereas political forces in Georgia were actively (prior to Pavel Grachev's visit to Tbilisi) discussing the possibility of withdrawing Russian troops from the conflict area, Abkhazia is definitely asking "to retain the troops until a full-scale settlement is reached." The Sukhumi authorities, however, are against troops' fulfilling police-like functions: They believe it would be enough if the security of those Georgians who choose to return home under the present conditions were ensured by the local militia and local authorities. The refugee problem—which has transformed from a humanitarian into a political one—is blocking negotiations between the two sides. Mr. Dzhindzholiya proposed that since "Abkhazia is no longer controlled from Tbilisi, a compromise could be the creation of a union state on a confederative basis." As long as negotiations continue, however, the Abkhazian parliament chairman considers irrelevant the appeals of Georgia to Russia—specifically as regards the problem of stationing Russia's military

bases (one out of four of them is to be located in Abkhazia) after Georgian territorial integrity is restored.

Ardzinba: Abkhazia Should Sign Military Bases Accord

LD0104161695 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1216 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sochi [no date as received]—We are grateful to Russia for its help in maintaining peace in the region, however, the agreement on the stationing of the Russian military base in the town of Gudauta should also be signed by Abkhaz representatives. This has been announced by Abkhaz President Vladislav Ardzinba at a rally in Sukhumi. He was speaking about the agreement concerning Russian bases on the territory of Georgia negotiated recently by Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Ardzinba also stressed that he supported the stationing of the military base in Gudauta.

Discussing relations between Georgia and Abkhazia, Ardzinba said that all problems had to be solved at the negotiating table through compromises and mutual concessions.

"All the necessary conditions are in place for this dialogue to continue," said the Abkhaz leader. "They have been created by the Russian peacekeeping forces, which, in the face of all the difficulties, are carrying out their duties, preventing the resumption of war and creating conditions for the return of refugees."

Speaking about the role played by the United Nations, OSCE, and other international organizations in the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, Ardzinba complained that the Abkhaz leadership "has not yet felt from them a serious analysis of the armed conflict." [sentence as received]

Border Post Attacked; Abkhazia Blames Georgian 'Terrorists'

LD0304102095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0922 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Unidentified gunmen opened fire on Russia's fourth border guard post in the Abkhazian town of Gudauta on Sunday night, the Russian federal border guard service reported while an Abkhazian government official immediately said that was the job of Georgian extremists.

According to the border guard service, a sleeping building was damaged as a result of the firing. There were no casualties.

Russian border guards did not fire back.

Abkhazian government member Sergey Bagapsh told TASS that "only terrorists based in Georgia's Zugdidi region could have opened fire on the post" while "Russian border guards and local residents have decades-old ties of friendship".

"Georgian extremists have committed acts of terror in the Gali, Gudauta and other Abkhazian regions", Bagapsh said.

Abkhaz Government Protests to Georgia over 'Sabotage'

LD0204164495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvyy in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Abkhaz government today protested to the Georgian authorities in connection with acts of sabotage in Gali rayon. You will recall that according to information from the Abkhaz security service, Georgian saboteurs killed six in Gali town on 1 April. Another nine were wounded and seven taken hostage.

The incident has been described as a provocation at the press service of the Abkhaz foreign ministry.

[Correspondent] The government of the Abkhaz Republic is appealing to the Russian Federation and the United Nations to exert pressure on the Georgian leadership which is failing to take measures to avert actions by groups of saboteurs and terrorists, and to call on the Georgian party to strictly adhere to the Moscow agreements. Otherwise, the Abkhaz party will be compelled to suspend its involvement in the talks process on finding a peaceful arrangement for the return of refugees.

Government Rejects Charge of Subversion in Abkhazia

LD0204154995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvyy in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A group of Georgian subversives attacked civilians in the Gali district of Abkhazia on Saturday [1 April]. [passage omitted]

At present a meeting is being held in Abkhazia in connection with yesterday's attack. It has been pointed out that the subversive group is still in the territory of Abkhazia and an intensive search is under way for the group.

It has just been learned that the government of the Republic of Abkhazia has made a resolute protest to Georgia regarding the—I quote—incessant subversive attacks. An appeal has been made to Russia and the

world community to exert pressure on Georgia, which in the view of the Abkhazian side is encouraging these subversive actions.

In turn the Georgian side flatly rejects the reports of civilians being attacked in the Gali district by Georgian groups, Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili told our radio station.

[Begin Nadareishvili recording] We regard this information, like many other reports in the past, as a provocation. First, there are almost no civilians of Abkhaz origin in the Gali district, since the area has since time immemorial always been purely Georgian. At present there are a few thousand people, elderly people and women, who were unable in practice to leave this zone. We are treating the attack on civilians as a provocation, since we consider that this is all aimed at breaking off the agreements that were reached after the initialling of the Russian-Georgian treaty on bases and the return of refugees to Abkhazia. Gali district is the first area to which refugees are to return. [end recording]

[Announcer] Nadareishvili pointed out that there is no advantage for the Georgian side in sending subversive groups into Gali district, since in his view this could wreck the process of the return of refugees. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Begins Operation Against 'Brotherhoods'

LD3103124095 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1057 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—An agency correspondent was told at the Georgian Interior Ministry press center that at 0400 hours [0000 GMT] on 31 March, by decree of head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, an operation was begun in the wake of the infamous terrorist acts to fight the so-called "brotherhoods" (which, as a rule, unite young people of one and the same district of Tbilisi) and various criminal elements. The operation is being conducted by the Georgian Interior Ministry and is led by Interior Minister Shota Kviraia together with the Tbilisi police.

By 1100 hours, 15 armed men who had been keeping vigil beside their wounded friends at the Tbilisi republican hospital were detained. During special check-ups, over 25 people were detained for illegal possession of arms. Fire arms were withdrawn following a search of their apartments. By now, 13 Kalashnikov machine-guns, sniper rifles, seven Makarov guns, two TT guns, and a large number of grenades and ammunition have been withdrawn.

Estonia**Baltic Presidents Differ on Attending WWII Events***LD0304100995 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Lennart Meri is puzzled by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas's decision to take part in the festivities in Moscow marking the end of World War II. Until Sunday, the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian presidents had not stated unambiguously and clearly whether they intend to respond to Russia's invitation to attend the festivities in Moscow in May. On the contrary, Lennart Meri has implied that a visit to Moscow is probably impossible. Yesterday, however, according to ITAR-TASS, Brazauskas said that he will attend. He made this decision after a 15-minute telephone conversation with Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis.

BNS has been told by the Estonian president's press service that Lennart Meri has noted with regret an attempt by a third country, and a friendly one at that, to influence the president's decision on whether to attend the 9 May celebrations in Moscow. Meri intends to make his position on this matter known at a time he considers appropriate.

At the end of March, Lennart Meri said in an interview with the German daily DIE WELT that he will go to Moscow for the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II only if Russia properly apologizes for the occupation and annexation of the Baltic countries. Meri told the German newspaper that it would be impossible for the Estonian head of state to attend festivities in Moscow marking the end of World War II because for Estonia World War II ended only in 1994 when the last Russian soldier left the country.

Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian opposition leader, has also spoken sharply against the Baltic presidents visiting Moscow. Landsbergis also spoke of Lennart Meri's firmness and hailed it as an example for the Lithuanian president.

Government Coalition Outlines Program*LD0204131395 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The new government being set up in Estonia does not intend to retreat on the majority of the principles of reform, as shown by the coalition partners' joint program published today. The government coalition set up by the pact of the Party of Consolidation and Rural People's Party and the Center Party intends to continue on the course of integration into the Western European Union, NATO, and the European Union, with full EU membership seen as being of particular importance.

The new government coalition considers it essential to improve relations with Russia. On the border issue, the new government intends to be firm and proceed from the [1920] Tartu Peace Treaty. The program states in writing that the present citizenship and language requirements as well as those imposed on aliens will not be amended. The government coalition states that it intends to keep the Estonian kroon's exchange rate against the Deutschmark unchanged and notes that the principles enshrined in both the law on maintaining the kroon and the law on currency will not be changed. The government coalition states that it will maintain a balanced budget and notes that no loans will be used to cover state budget expenses.

The government coalition notes in its program that Estonia will continue as a country with an open economy. The tax burden in the country will not be increased. The course will be to reduce the present business tax rate of 26 percent and increase the private individual's tax-free allowance. It is envisaged to exempt small farmers from the income tax in the course of this year. It is intended to locate additional low-interest loan resources to farmers for spring fieldwork.

The voting on the new prime minister in the Riigikogu [parliament] is due to take place in the course of the coming week.

Vahi Comments on Composition of Coalition Government*LD0204161595 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 31 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1800 tonight, Tiit Vahi and Edgar Savisaar, the leaders of the pact of the Party of Consolidation and Rural People's Party [KMU] and the Center Party, signed a coalition agreement. Tiit Vahi, the prime ministerial candidate, who leads the KMU that won the elections, is likely to speak in front of the Riigikogu, on his program, on either Monday or Tuesday [3-4 April]. [passage omitted] The KMU has 41 seats in the Riigikogu and the Center Party has 16.

Here is Tiit Vahi on how the agreement came about and who might be included in the government.

[Begin Vahi recording] The very first text on political principles that we agreed with the Reform Party [alternative coalition partner who won 19 seats in parliament] were debated and approved by the Party of Consolidation. Now certain amendments have been introduced. The KMU made compromises in both directions: While we were holding talks with the Reform Party, compromises were made precisely toward liberalizing our policies and the policy on the economy; while we were holding talks with the Center Party, we accepted as compromises some major social guarantees as envisaged in the Center Party program. This is perhaps where the difference lay.

The filling of all ministerial posts with specific individuals has been discussed, but at this moment there is one or more candidates for any one post. In this connection I would not like to name anybody by the name at the moment. [passage omitted] I will maintain that we will proceed from the competence of any one individual when it comes to the distribution of ministerial portfolios. We will also proceed from the size of parliamentary groups, with the KMT getting 10 ministerial posts plus the state secretary's post, and the Center Party will get five ministerial posts. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Estonian Law on Official Language Effective 1 Apr

WS0304094495 Tallinn BNS in English 1554 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 01, BNS—Estonia's new language law, passed by the country's last parliament on Feb. 21, steps into force on April 1.

The law, based on a similar legislation from 1934, defines Estonian as the country's official language and as the language of command in the defense forces.

Languages of ethnic minorities can be used as internal administration languages in local government bodies, if the region's majority of residents belong to the respective ethnic minority.

Beside the use of Estonian, the new law also regulates the use of other languages in the country. It is a typical language law of an independent country, to which provisions about punishments for its violation can be added later, MP Mart Nutt, one of the authors of the legislation, has said.

The language law valid in Estonia until now was adopted in 1989, when Estonia was still part of the Soviet Union. Nutt in remarks to BNS earlier said that although adopted at a time when Estonia was struggling for more independence from the Soviet Union, the 1989 legislation still was a law of the Estonian SSR and not of an independent country.

Before the law was passed, the then parliament voted down an amendment suggested by its only Russian-speaking deputy, Sergei Zonov, who proposed to have the term "ethnic minority language" replaced with "foreign language."

Latvia

Chinese Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

LD0104110295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga April 1 TASS—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has concluded his visit to

Latvia, where he arrived on Wednesday [29 March], with a walk around old Riga and a visit to the art museum.

The Baltic countries are a wide bridge to Europe for China, Qian Qichen believes. He said about Chinese businessmen's intention to open a trade centre in Riga. The guest offered to the Latvian side to make conditions which would allow local entrepreneurs to regularly visit fairs in China. It is expedient to ease the visa regime, in particular, he added.

Interior Minister Discusses Visit to Germany

LD0204230495 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1701 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A delegation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs returned to Riga from Germany today. The delegation had gone there to conclude an agreement on cooperation between the two countries. At Riga airport, the head of the delegation, Minister of Internal Affairs Janis Adamsons told reporters about the visit.

[Begin Adamsons recording] The main aim of the visit was concluding an agreement between the governments of Federal Germany and the Republic of Latvia—an agreement on fighting against organized crime.

The most important thing in this agreement is Clause Two, which stipulates at which level and on what we will be exchanging information. In brief, the meaning of the agreement is as follows: Not to give criminals the opportunity to live without troubles in either country.

Also, there are [as heard] very many various meetings in Germany with the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the leadership of the ministry [as heard] of various laender and presidents of the police. Issues of training were tackled, which is very important. Naturally, issues concerning finances were also discussed. We also discussed the possibility of sending our people to study at the Police Academy in Germany.

There was also a meeting with the leadership of the border guard. We discussed problems that have currently arisen in Germany in connection with the fact that Germany is one of those countries that has acceded to the Schengen Accord [accord signed by West Germany, France, and the Benelux countries in Schengen, Luxembourg, on 19 June 1990 drafting the abolition of border controls]. That was also very interesting to us because after some time we will in any case, I think, accede to that accord. We also discussed the issue of concluding an agreement between Germany and Latvia on a visa-free regime.

Issues of possible technical assistance were also tackled. Representatives of the German Interior Ministry will arrive next week and then we will specifically discuss technical assistance.

We discussed immigration issues a great deal and at length. As you know, problems concerning Kurds and

Turks exist in Germany as well. Economic refugees from Central Asia, who are looking for a better life, are meant here in fact. [sentence as heard] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Russia Must Accept Asian Refugees; Assume Responsibility

LD3103211195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 31 Mar 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, Mar 31 (Interfax)—Russia must accept refugees and assume responsibility for their future, the Latvian Foreign Ministry said in its note transferred to the Russian Embassy in Riga on Thursday, an official of the Latvian Foreign Ministry's press center told Interfax today.

The same source said that Latvian law enforcement had information proving that Asian refugees had penetrated into the republic from Russia. The official said he could not understand actions of the Russian authorities which did not allow refugees to enter Russia.

Kurd, Afghan and Palestinian refugees, children among them, were detained by the Latvian police in Riga on March 21 and sent back to Russia. However, Russian border guards in the Kaliningrad Region did not let them enter Russia.

Refugees are now living in two railway cars at the Karsava railway station in Latvia.

National Oil Company To Be Established by Government

WS0304103695 Riga DIENA in Latvian 23 Mar 95 pp 1, 12

[Report by Baiba Melnace: "Latvia Intends To Establish National Oil Company"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riga, 22 Mar—At the beginning of April, a second round of talks will begin between the working group of the Latvian Government, and "Amoco" and "OPAB" companies on the exploration of possibilities for extracting oil from the Baltic sea shelf. Meanwhile, a project for creating a Latvian National Oil Company has been prepared, which foresees inclusion of the state joint stock company "Ventspils Nafta" and the joint venture "LaSam."

Uldis Osis, chairman of the "Ventspils Nafta" board, has already acquainted the working group with this project. At present, the project is being discussed, with the aim of presenting it to the Latvian Government, Inesis Feiferis, state secretary in the Ministry of Economy, told a news conference.

Since there is a possibility that other oil fields might also be found in the part of the Baltic sea belonging to Latvia, a bid will be announced for its exploration and utilization, Feiferis emphasized. In the case of "Amoco" and "OPAB", a bid was not organized, and the companies were given an advantage, because they undertook the risk of seeking oil, without knowing whether it really exists, and whether there is a chance to extract it for industrial purposes.

To create interest of other companies in the oil resources to be found in the Baltic sea, Latvia is preparing to organize an auction in Great Britain. The plan is to offer more than ten informational packages, but the information will not contain data on concrete oil sites; its basic purpose will be to attract clients, said Feiferis.

The future Latvian National Oil Company will not just be engaged in oil extraction. It is also being envisaged as an organization which will create a complex oil transit corridor through Latvia, with unified conditions and tariffs, to attract companies dealing with the transit of oil and oil products.

The main problem which is to be discussed during the second round of negotiations with "Amoco" and "OPAB," deals with tax reductions demanded by the above companies. Their proposal is not to pay any income taxes at all during the first three years after beginning oil extraction, and to pay only 50 percent during the next five years. The Latvian side does not agree with such big reductions. The issue of taxes is also connected with payment for the use of the resources—usually it is being fixed at 11 percent of the profit of the enterprise. Consequently, if Latvia does not reduce the taxes paid by "Amoco" and "OPAB," payment for the use of the oil deposit will respectively decrease.

Until now, Latvia's participation in the project has also not been determined. In the opinion of the working group, it could amount to 10 percent. As was explained by Feifers, the relatively small share of Latvia's participation is due to the financial possibilities of the state.

The working group is also involved in working out a license agreement, to be signed by Latvia in case the negotiations are positively concluded. Among others, it also foresees conditions obliging "Amoco" and "OPAB" to take responsibility for the ecological state of the Baltic sea. The conditions presently offered by "Amoco" and "OPAB" state that the companies are to accept responsibility in the field of ecology only when cases of drastic misdemeanor are discovered in their activities. Latvia can by no means agree with such an unclear and incorrect formulation, said Feiferis, therefore more detailed and stricter conditions will be introduced in the draft agreement on environmental protection.

Feiferis also added that negotiations on exploring the Baltic shelf are hindered by the thus far unresolved issue of the Latvian-Lithuanian sea border. This issue, however, does not belong to the competence of the working group, and should be resolved at the government level.

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